



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

U.S., UK Cargo Boycott at Arab Ports Called

JN1904231090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2130 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)—The Central Council of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] has hailed the courageous pan-Arab stand of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in his confrontation of the smear campaign and the attempts to threaten Iraq and the Arab nation by British, U.S. and Zionist quarters.

In a political statement issued at the conclusion of its first emergency session, the ICATU blessed Iraq's acquisition of a powerful scientific and technological base and of defensive, deterrent weapons. The statement affirmed that this fabricated clamor is a preparation for a hostile scheme whose blueprint is being drafted by Pentagon and Zionist circles with a view to creating a conspiratorial climate against Iraq, which enjoys the support of the Arab masses, and on which the Arab masses are pinning great hopes for their liberation.

In their statement, the Arab workers affirmed their belief that the decisive response must be a historic one to help realize Arab security on Arab lands. This dictates that a status of cohesion in the Arab stand be created through demonstrating adherence by all to the higher pan-Arab interests of the Arab nation to help ward off the impending dangers, the statement said. And in this regard, the task of halting the aggression against Iraq and facing up to the arrogance of U.S. imperialism and the Zionist entity figures highly through the espousal of an Arab position supporting Iraq and its natural right to make progress in the fields of scientific and technological advancement, the statement added.

The statement urged the Arab working masses and all workers of the world to unite in their struggle and to mobilize their capabilities to support Iraq in its confrontation of the onslaught, and to condemn and denounce the frenzied campaign being launched by the rancorous and evil forces.

The statement indicated that the continued U.S. presence in the Arabian Gulf and the Mediterranean casts a great deal of doubt and raises skepticism over the U.S. position vis-a-vis efforts to attain a comprehensive and just peace in the region. This stand was clearly stated by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in the historic speech which he delivered at the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council in Amman, the statement said. Future developments have confirmed the soundness of this diagnosis of the situation and confirmed the belief in the psyche of the Arab masses as to the truth regarding the conspiratorial intentions of both the United States, Britain, and their baby, the Zionist entity, the statement said.

The statement asserted that the U.S. Senate resolution recognizing holy Jerusalem as the undivided capital of the Zionist entity is a link in a series of hostile U.S. positions against the Arab nation.

The statement condemned the international conspiracy and the hidden forces which stand behind the campaign to help Soviet Jews emigrate to Palestine and the occupied Arab territories.

The ICATU has decided that workers involved in handling cargo at Arab ports and airports shall halt loading and unloading of U.S. and British ships and planes, and that they shall also refrain from rendering them any services pending a halt to the campaign of hostility against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The ICATU also decided that each ICATU member organization and its branches shall stage rallies to show solidarity with Iraq. The ICATU also decided that each member organization shall also stage marches to express support for Iraq and the Arab nation and condemnation of the suspect campaigns. Each member organization shall also submit protest memos to the U.S. diplomatic mission in its country condemning the statements against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The ICATU has urged Arab governments and institutions to withdraw their funds from U.S. and British banks.

The ICATU considered the speech delivered by His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in his meeting with ICATU members during their emergency meeting in Baghdad as an historic ICATU document.

The ICATU announced its total support for Iraq in its right to attain higher levels of scientific and technological advancement and to acquire defensive, deterrent weapons.

The ICATU has also decided that the workers' media and other organs shall explain the implications of the U.S.-British campaign against Iraq, and that they shall launch awareness campaigns to show the people the ways to face and confront this campaign, basing their arguments on the fact that the conflict is between the Arabs on the one hand and the United States and Britain on the other.

On behalf of millions of Arab workers, the ICATU hailed in its resolutions the heroism being displayed and the sacrifices being made by the stone-throwing children in occupied Palestine. The ICATU also hailed the intifadah being staged by the Palestinians against the Zionist occupation troops.

Furthermore, the ICATU decided that member organizations shall submit protest memos to the U.S. President and the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives against their resolution to recognize holy Jerusalem as the undivided capital of the Zionist entity. In addition, the Arab workers also decided to submit similar memos to the UN secretary general. They also decided to call

upon the Arab masses to boycott U.S. goods and commodities pending a reversal by the U.S. Senate of its unjust resolution.

The ICATU called upon the Soviet leadership to reconsider its stand on Soviet Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine to protect the common interests of both the Arab nation and the Soviet peoples.

The ICATU also condemned the act of sabotage to which the Libyan plant of al-Rabitah was exposed. It also denounced the imperialist-Zionist campaign against Libya.

The ICATU earlier discussed the dimensions of the U.S.-British-Zionist campaign against Iraq and the U.S. Senate resolution recognizing occupied Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist entity. It also discussed Soviet Jewish emigration and the U.S.-Zionist threats against Libya.

ICATU Memos Protest U.S., UK 'Campaign'

*JN1904163090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1445 GMT
19 Apr 90*

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)—Delegations of workers participating in the emergency meetings of the Central Council of the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions [ICATU] handed memorandums to the U.S. and British Embassies in Baghdad today protesting the hostile anti-Iraq campaign launched by the imperialist U.S.-British circles in coordination with Zionism.

The Arab workers, headed by the secretary general of the ICATU Central Council, staged a protest march to the U.S. and British Embassies, at the end of which they handed memorandums of protest to the U.S. ambassador and the British press attache. During the march, the Central Council members chanted slogans denouncing the suspect campaign against Iraq and the Arab nation and stressing the Arab workers' support for Iraq against the imperialist and Zionist threats to it.

The memorandum that was handed to the U.S. Embassy and addressed to U.S. President George Bush reads: The Arab workers are determined to effectively contribute to defending Iraq and the Arab nation against any Zionist aggression. They stress that the Bush Administration's support for the Zionist entity will reflect negatively on the U.S. interests in the region.

The memorandum adds that the United States will face the appropriate Arab response in case an aggression is carried out against Iraq and the Arab nation, and that the United States is considered a major party to the Arab-Israeli conflict and is directly responsible for the Zionist entity's aggressions against the Arab nation. The memorandum pointed out that all Arab countries had hoped that the new international changes would help achieve peace and stability in the Arab region, realize the Palestinian Arab people's just objectives, and secure better

circumstances for the development of the Arab countries. However, the United States has continued to do the contrary. It has exploited these changes in the interest of the Zionist entity by reinforcing its aggressive military capabilities, pressuring the USSR, thus exploiting the international detente policy to force Jews to emigrate from the USSR and East Europe to Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, and issuing a U.S. Senate resolution considering the city of Jerusalem as the capital of the Zionist entity. At the same time, the U.S. Administration has escalated its interference in the Arab states' domestic affairs with the objective of hampering their progress and preventing them from achieving their unity and legitimate goals.

The memorandum adds: Your administration's actions during the past period against pan-Arab security have raised and are raising all Arabs' concern. Among these actions are your repeated statements that your fleets will not leave the Arab Gulf at a time when all sides are aware of the circumstances that necessitated the massing of these fleets in the Arab Gulf. Among these circumstances were the Iraq-Iran war and its expansion to other Arab countries. However, now following international developments and after Iraq emerged victorious from the war, the continuation of the military presence of your fleets in the Arab Gulf raises suspicion and casts doubts over your administration's true stand toward the process of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. Your administration is, more than at any time in the past, completely biased toward the Zionist entity. It also does not give any consideration to the moral and legal role the United States should play as a superpower.

The memorandum adds: The Senate decision to consider holy Jerusalem a unified capital of the Zionist entity is within the framework of this flagrant, suspect policy, which is hostile to the Arab nation. This action is unacceptable, and represents a mean denial of the Palestinian people's national rights, a blatant challenge to the Arab nation's aspirations, and a rude insult to the feelings of all mankind, a flagrant violation of international legitimacy and the principle of international law, and a flouting of all UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on holy Jerusalem. This Senate decision has been issued at a time when the heroic Palestinian intifadah is entering its 29th month, and during the influx of Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. This emigration would not have taken place under the cover of human rights slogans, had not your government exercised pressure on the Soviet Union by exploiting its special circumstances and the policy of international detente, and were it not for the support you have been extending to the Zionist authorities to ensure the necessary means of settling those immigrants, and for the pressure you exerted to transfer them to Palestine and the occupied Arab territories.

It is regrettable that while talking about human rights, you ignore the massacres being committed against Palestinian women, old men, and children. You talk about

international peace and security while beefing up the Zionist entity's nuclear, chemical, and biological arsenal. You are devoting all the U.S. resources to facilitating the process of Jewish emigration to Arab Palestine from all over the world and to financing the building of settlements, something which has increased the arrogance and intransigence of the Zionist enemy and its expansionist ambitions.

Moreover, you have not hesitated to launch hostile actions against the Arab nation. You repeatedly committed aggressions against the Libyan Jamahiriya by mounting a direct military attack on cities and civilian targets, violating airspace and territorial waters, and issuing provocations and threats to strike at civilian industrial establishments. The latest of these is the operation to sabotage the al-Rabitah factory. You have also carried out premeditated media campaigns and imposed an economic blockade. Your Marine forces violated the sovereignty, independence, and freedom of Lebanon and contributed toward the Hammam al-Shatt crime [Israeli attack on PLO headquarters] against Tunisia. And while escalating your campaign against the Arab nation with the aim of preventing it from possessing means of scientific and technological progress and the methods with which to defend its rights and sovereignty, an unjust and fabricated campaign is being unleashed against Iraq under the pretext that it is manufacturing nuclear weapons. This campaign is based on prevarication and fabricated events and is devoted to providing a cover for the Zionist entity to attack Iraq.

The memorandum said that the Arab workers consider your comments on President Saddam Husayn's statement on confronting any Zionist nuclear attack with binary chemical weapons to be an attempt to falsify facts and reshuffle the cards, that these comments are within your policy of hostility to the Arab nation, harming its rights and interfering in its internal affairs. The Arab workers consider President Saddam Husayn's declaration that Iraq possesses the means of scientific progress and power, including chemical weapons, to be within Iraq's legitimate rights to defend Iraq, the Arab nation, and mankind.

The memo adds: The ICATU Central Council, which met in an emergency session in Baghdad on 17-18 April 1990, asserts that Arab workers are determined to effectively take part in defending Iraq and the Arab nation in face of any Zionist aggression. They affirm, moreover, that your government's stand, which supports the Zionist entity, is bound to reflect negatively on U.S. interests in the Arab region, and that you will receive the appropriate Arab reply in case any aggression takes place against Iraq and the Arab nation; because by your positions, you are considered a major party in the Arab-Zionist conflict, and you will be directly responsible for any Israeli aggressive actions against the Arab nation.

The memo adds: Be assured that the Arab nation is determined to exercise its legitimate right in accordance

with international laws and norms and human principles, and that it is also determined to achieve progress by possessing science, technology, and the means to defend itself, and this is one of its legitimate rights.

The memo addressed to British Prime Minister Thatcher said: Millions of Arab workers consider the statement of President Saddam Husayn, in which he said that Iraq will answer any Zionist aggression on Iraq and the Arab nation with the chemical weapon, a defense for humanity at large; because, through this statement, Iraq expressed its and the Arab nation's legitimate right to defend their security and sovereignty.

In their protest memo which was handed to the British press attache in Baghdad, Arab workers asserted their support for Iraq in one trench to firmly and bravely reply to Zionist threats of aggression, and that they hold Britain responsible for encouraging the Zionist entity to commit aggression and expansion.

The memo adds: The British Government, which is known for its imperialistic history in the Arab homeland and for the tragedies its policies have inflicted, should have adopted stands indicating that it has abandoned its previous policies, put an end to this policy, and opened a new chapter in its relations with Arabs.

The memo adds: We do not want to dwell on the British Government's known policies, which resulted in problems whose effects are still prevalent. The Balfour Declaration, for example, was an incentive for the massing of Zionists from all parts of the globe, their usurpation of the Arab land of Palestine, and the Zionist entity's connivance with your country's government, the Zionist settlers, and their gangs. Britain, furthermore, led the campaign in the tripartite aggression against Egypt in 1956; took part in the aggression on Libya in 1986; committed an aggression on Iraq in 1920 and 1941; and committed an aggression on Sudan, the southern part of Yemen, and other places of the Arab land.

While recalling these facts, the memo goes on to say, new facts are currently surfacing which assert the determination to continue with the hostile policy against the will of the peoples, whose wealth has been pillaged and who have been oppressed for dozens of years.

The memo asserts that your government's excuse about human rights is really a source of ridicule. You have declared yourself an illegitimate advocate of human rights. What happened to human rights when you took part in partitioning Palestine, usurping its lands, deporting its people, and assisting the Zionist movement to establish the Zionist entity? Where are human rights while the Zionist authorities are daily practicing the ugliest crimes and carnage against the Palestinian Arab people?

The memo wonders: Is it within human rights to defend spies, and to hold the spy who harms the security and sovereignty of a whole nation and people at a higher level than that of nations and peoples?

Is it within human rights that your government be a tool of Zionist intelligence by sending spies to Iraq with British travel documents, and launching a hostile campaign against Iraq because it exercised its legitimate right and executed Bazoft—a spy of Iranian extraction and with British travel documents? Your rancor toward Iraq and the Arab nation, and the assistance of the United States and the Zionist entity led you to portray a simple trade deal as a deal for the purpose of creating a nuclear bomb.

The aims you seek from these fabrications against Iraq are clear. Through coordination with the United States, you want to provide pretexts and justifications for the Zionist entity to launch an aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation. Afterward, you would bless such an aggression and continue your false allegations about human rights.

The Arab workers, who struggled with their nation against British colonialism and effectively contributed toward the removal of this colonialism, know what disgraceful crimes have been committed by your forces against human rights and peoples.

The memorandum stresses that millions of Arab workers consider President Saddam Husayn's declaration that any Zionist aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation will be responded to with chemical weapons to be an expression of the legitimate right of Iraq and the Arab nation to defend their security and sovereignty. The Arab workers also consider this declaration to be a defense for mankind as well.

On this basis, while standing alongside Iraq in the same trench in its firm, brave, and historic response to the Israeli threats of aggression, the Arab workers consider Britain responsible for encouraging the Zionist entity's aggressiveness and expansionist policy, as well as for any aggression to be launched by Israel against Iraq and the Arab nation.

In its emergency meeting held in Baghdad on 17 and 18 April 1990, the ICATU Central Council affirmed that the Arab workers are determined to effectively contribute toward the confrontation of any Israeli aggression against Iraq and the Arab nation. It also stressed that due to its support and encouragement of an Israeli aggression and in view of its role in Israel's designs against Iraq and the Arab nation, the British Government will not be safe from the consequences of the Israeli aggressiveness. British interests in the Arab region will be a target for the Arab workers. Victory is for our glorious Arab nation.

Meanwhile, an Arab workers delegation under ICATU Secretary General Hasan Hajjam met with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi in Baghdad this morning and handed him a cable of thanks and appreciation for the good efforts exerted by the Arab League General Secretariat in confronting the hostile colonialist and Zionist campaign against Iraq.

The delegation conveyed to Chedli Klibi the Arab workers' wish that the Arab League General Secretariat place the Arab countries before their responsibilities in this confrontation.

Arab Union Finishes Meeting, Issue Statement

*JN1904145690 Baghdad INA in English 1410 GMT
19 Apr 90*

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 19 INA—Arab parliamentarians had announced their resolute and strong stand by Iraq in defence of its legitimate national rights and dignity of the Arab nation.

In a final statement issued at the conclusion of meetings of the extraordinary session of the Arab Parliamentary Union Council today, the parliamentarians denounced the decision passed by the European Parliament on the 5th instant, targeting Iraq and the Arab nation.

In their statement, the Arab parliamentarians demanded the European Parliament to reconsider its decision as being considered a bare faced interference in Iraq's internal affairs and also demanded it to conduct fact-finding process prior to adopting any resolution concerning the region.

The statement said that the Arab Parliamentary Union feels deep concern over the unjust campaign engineered against Iraq by the United States, Britain and Israel for distorting its international picture and aborting its national accomplishments.

It added that the campaign was not after harming Iraq but also after keeping the Arab homeland a captive to backwardness and suffering.

It added that President Husayn's recent statements came within the frame of a feeling of high sense of national responsibility that dictates the legitimate defence of Iraqi interests against Western and Israeli threats hostile to Iraq and the Arab nation.

The statement viewed that Iraq's attitude was based on the principle of self-defence and resolve to acquire scientific and technological progress in accordance with principles of international law and norms of dealing among countries including its acceptance of the principle of international inspection of weapons on the condition that other countries of the region including Israel must be subjected to that inspection.

The statement further stressed that a target of the anti-Iraq campaign was also consecrating the Israeli superiority on all Arabs including maintaining Israeli occupation of the Arab territories and continued Israeli and Western hegemony over the region and liquidating the rights of the Palestinian people.

The statement said the Arab Parliamentary Union denounces the European Parliament statement of 5th April which clearly demonstrated that it was not based on facts but coincided with the escalation of the anti-Iraq

campaign and the resolution of the U.S. Senate to consider al-Quds [Jerusalem] as capital of Israel which had violated all international charters and resolutions.

The statement also said the union was also following up with concern the suspicious campaign against Libya and stressed its solid and decisive stand alongside Iraq in defence of its national rights and Arab dignity.

The statement demanded the world community to understand the Arab attitude which emanates from keenness on peace and commitment to international resolutions and charters taking into consideration the prerequisites of strategic balance in the region and preservation of national security of all countries.

It also demanded the world community to exercise all forms of pressure on Israel to ensure its signing of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and declaring the Middle East a zone free of mass destruction weapons. It also called upon the world community to press Israel for subjecting its nuclear installations to the supervision of the International Agency of Atomic Energy.

The statement called for organizing a meeting between the European Parliament and the Arab Parliamentary Union to exchange viewpoints and expound realities of the situation in the region preliminary to opening a positive dialogue for the common interest of the European and Arab communities.

It also urged Arab parliaments to activate its contacts with the European parliaments to expound realities and to continue the Euro-Arab cooperation in service of the joint interests of the two communities' peoples.

The union sent a telegram of thanks and appreciation and backing to President Saddam Husayn and sent another telegram to the speaker of the European Parliament which referred to the Union's attitude over the unjust resolution passed by the European Parliament.

Jordan Welcomes Summit To Reconcile Syria, Iraq

*JN2004092290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
20 Apr 90 pp 1, 13*

[By Wafa' 'Amr]

[Text] Amman—A Jordanian official said yesterday that Jordan welcomes an extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad before the end of May as a genuine framework for Arab reconciliation.

The official, who declined to reveal his identity, added that it is hoped that a Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation will be effected during the proposed summit through efforts by several Arab sides to end the differences between the two countries. Holding the Baghdad summit is based on these hopes. The summit will also be a show of solidarity and support for Iraq against the Zionist and Western media campaigns to which it has recently been subjected.

Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat told reporters in Amman the day before yesterday that he was still holding consultations with Arab leaders to convene an extraordinary Arab summit in Baghdad by the end of May. The Jordanian official said that 'Arafat, who proposed the summit with Jordan's approval, will continue his efforts to hold it in Baghdad, adding that Jordan believes it is essential to hold the summit soon.

Observers have said that during his recent visit to Damascus, Marwan al-Qasim, the Jordanian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, discussed Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation, among other things. The visit was part of continuous Jordanian efforts to achieve this goal.

On another level, the Jordanian official described president 'Arafat's visit to Jordan as positive and extremely practical, achieving substantive results satisfactory to both sides.

The Palestinian-Jordanian talks resulted in a new committee, the first of its kind, with the purpose of coordinating in the information field. The joint information committee is chaired by Jordanian Information Minister 'Izz al-Din Ibrahim and Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, head of the PLO Information Department. The official noted the importance of this committee, particularly concerning joint television programs. The aim, he said, is to reach the Palestinian viewers in the occupied territory and broadcast educational programs and programs from the Jerusalem Open University.

The official said the door was left open for forming other joint committees as necessary, adding that other issues related to passports, resident permits, and the export of West Bank and Gaza products are now being discussed by specialized committees. The interior minister, the official said, expressed complete readiness to work to ease the conditions and alleviate the problems faced by people from the occupied territories.

A ministerial committee has been formed to look into the negative results of measures that followed Jordan's West bank disengagement decision.

Interior Minister Salim Masa'idah said the committee met and was still discussing the best means of reducing restrictions on the people from the occupied territory.

Tripartite Committee To Continue Lebanese Efforts

*LD1904140190 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 19 Apr 90*

[Text] Mr. Abdellatif Filali, minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, who is currently visiting Abu Dhabi where he handed a written message from His Majesty King Hassan II to Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan al-Nuhayyan, has declared that the Arab tripartite committee charged with resolving the Lebanese crisis is prepared, as it announced from the beginning, to cooperate—either inside Lebanon or outside—with the Lebanese president, Ilyas al-Hirawi, and with Mr. Salim

al-Huss, head of the Lebanese government, in order to surmount the remaining obstacles in the Lebanese arena and at the international level with a view to supporting Lebanese legitimacy [as heard].

In reply to a question from the United Arab Emirates [UAE] press agency on whether his tour of some Arab countries, including the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Kuwait has anything to do with the situation in the Lebanese arena and the holding of a meeting of the leaders of the three member-states of the higher Arab tripartite committee at the request of the Lebanese Government, Mr Abdellatif Filali said: The tripartite committee is awaiting the results of the consultations which Mr. Lakhdar Ibrahim, the committee's envoy, is holding in Lebanon with the various parties and also with the Syrian Government, which plays a major role in the Lebanese arena.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Condemns Israeli 'Desecration' in Jerusalem

LD2004020290 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0030 GMT
20 Apr 90

[Text] Jeddah 19 Apr (SPA)—The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] has strongly denounced and condemned the growing acts of desecration carried out by Zionist forces of occupation and Jewish settlers against holy places in holy Jerusalem.

The organization announced in a statement, published today by its secretary general, Dr. Hamid Algabid, that the occupation of the buildings annexed to the Greek Orthodox Church of Jerusalem and the attempt on the life of Patriarch Diodoros as well as the preparations under way to build a new settlement with the official blessing of Ariel Sharon, a minister in the Israeli Cabinet, are all irrefutable evidence of Israel's inclination for oppression and expansion. The organization stressed, furthermore, that "such aggressions, which have raised an overwhelming wave of anger and denunciation throughout the world, have also left a deep scar in Muslims feelings because they were aimed at Islamic holy places and men who are committed to worship". The ICO said, moreover, in its statement: "Wily schemes lie behind such Israeli practices; they aim at the existence of the Palestinian people, its sanctities, and its historical rights to its land and homeland."

The Organization pointedly asserted that such practices "clearly indicate the extent of the blindness and stubbornness of the Zionist ideology and Israel's policies of oppression and expansion in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories carried out against Muslims and Christians whose rights and interests are ignored, a matter which contravenes international laws and norms as well as international agreements, particularly the Geneva Treaty of 1949 and UN resolution."

The ICO called anew upon its member-states as well as peace and freedom-loving peoples to face up to the Zionist scheme and bar its implementation with all means.

The Organization urged, at the end of its statement, "His Holiness Pope John Paul II and the patriarch of the Greek Orthodox Church to take the necessary measures to stop the Israeli aggression and work to end the Zionist occupation of the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories."

The Organization also called for "speeding up the process of a just and comprehensive peace in the region based upon the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of its independent national state, with Jerusalem as its capital, under the leadership of the PLO, its sole and legitimate representative."

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on Yasir 'Arafat's Visit to Jordan

Confederation Idea 'Premature'

JN1904125890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1210 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Randah Habib dispatch from Amman]

[Text] With respect to the idea of establishing a confederation between Jordan and the state of Palestine, an idea which was recently mentioned in Amman by PLO command members, Yasir 'Arafat said at the end of his official talks with Jordanian officials that discussion of this issue is premature. He said that the final decision on this rests with Jordan, since the Palestine National Council had adopted a resolution on the establishment of a confederation between the two sides.

In this context, Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim said that, in order for a confederation to be established, the Palestinian side should achieve two things: the land and the right to self-determination.

'Arafat Addresses PNC Members

JN1904125490 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 19 Apr 90
p 22

[Text] Amman—During a meeting held by members of the Palestine National Council [PNC] at the Guest Palace here yesterday, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat described Jordanian-Palestinian relations as fraternal and proceeding well in an atmosphere of frankness. He said there was complete coordination and cooperation between the PLO and the Jordanian Government in every area.

It has been decided to form two committees; the first dealing with Jewish immigration from the USSR and East Europe and the second concerned with patching up differences inside the occupied homeland.

'Arafat said that the Palestinian leadership has made a pledge to back the intifadah until it achieves its full objectives.

'Arafat described the Israeli position as intransigent and stubborn, adding that only Palestinian national unity and escalation of the intifadah would end Israeli intransigence and stubbornness.

Several PNC members called for resurrecting the eastern front as a means of support for the brave intifadah.

President 'Arafat emphasized the need to convene an Arab summit soon. He also called for the reactivation of the seven-member committee of the nonaligned states to back the intifadah and the Palestine cause.

'Arafat referred to the role of the unified leadership of the intifadah in creating the present Israeli crisis, which, he said, is now remorselessly eating up the Israeli body.

Regarding his meeting with Carter and Mitterrand, 'Arafat said the meeting initiated several discussions, all of which are positive and in the interest of the Palestine question.

'Arafat referred to the danger of the Soviet Jewish immigration to Arab national security and the need to adopt a position on this issue before the next U.S.-Soviet summit.

The meeting was attended by PNC members resident in Jordan and members of the PLO Executive Committee.

Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] announced the PLO's decision to end the phenomenon of masked men in the occupied territories in order to avoid infiltration by suspect elements who carry out sabotage serving the enemy's interests.

Regarding the next PNC session, Abu-'Ammar announced that he expects the PNC to meet in July after the committee entrusted with reorganization has completed its work. If the committee is unable to complete its work, he said, the PNC will meet in its current formation as an extraordinary council.

Comments on Talks With Jordan

LD1904134990 Kuwait KUNA in English 0905 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Amman, April 19 (KUNA)—Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has disclosed at the end of two days of talks with Jordanian leaders that he and Jordan's King Husayn had agreed to call for an emergency Arab summit in Iraq before the end of May.

'Arafat, who left here at dawn following a two-day official visit to Jordan, added that the proposed summit would focus on Soviet Jewish immigration to Israeli-occupied Arab lands. He noted that the Soviet Jewish immigration constitutes dangers to Arab national security and threatens the safety of the Arab states.

Asked about steps toward a proposed confederation between Jordan and a Palestinian state, 'Arafat who was speaking to reporters after talks with Jordanian Prime Minister Mudar Badran here last night, said it was "up to our Jordanian brethren and King Husayn to decide on that, but I believe that it is too early to talk about it now." "I repeat what the king has said before that we are one family. The confederation is there and our future relationship will be based on this," he said.

Meanwhile, 'Arafat discussed with Jordanian officials the Palestinian cause and the challenges which face the Arabs.

The convocation of the Arab summit conference topped the Jordanian-Palestinian talks which ended last night and were headed by Jordanian Premier Mudar Badran, and 'Arafat. During the talks the conferees affirmed the need to restore the joint Jordanian-Palestinian work. The conferees also expressed hope that the summit should take place in Baghdad to express the Arab's support with Iraq against the Zionist attacks these days.

'Arafat however, described his talks with King Husayn and Jordanian officials as positive, unified stance, and joint work.

The two sides confirmed their full solidarity with Iraq and supporting such an Arab state against the Zionist campaign. They agreed on the continuation of the cooperation in the information field by forming a joint Palestinian-Jordanian information committee to be chaired by Jordanian Information Minister Ibrahim 'Izzal-Din and member of PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh.

The two sides agreed on the need to hold the international peace conference with the attendance of the disputed parties and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

'Arafat Arrives in Baghdad 19 Apr

JN1904195190 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic
1823 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Brother president leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], accompanied by some PLO Executive Committee members, arrived in Baghdad at dawn today on a visit of several days during which he will chair meetings of the PLO Executive Committee.

Brother leader Abu-'Ammar concluded an official visit to Jordan last night. During his Jordan visit, he met with His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. During their meeting, they discussed bilateral ties and the latest developments in the Palestine question. [passage omitted]

Mahmud 'Abbas Denies PLO To Move to Jordan

JN2004095690 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 20 Apr 90 pp 14, 18

[Excerpt] Tunis-(Petra)—PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas has said that Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Jordan and his talks with His Majesty King Husayn were part of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination to confront the common threats to both fraternal peoples and to arrange their daily affairs, especially under democracy in Jordan.

In a statement to the Tunisian newspaper AL-SAHFAH of yesterday, the Palestinian official stressed the Palestinian leadership's rejection of any attempt to exploit or misunderstand the democratic climate in Jordan so as to block anyone seeking to damage the national unity between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples on Jordanian territory.

He said the threat is directed against Jordanians and Palestinians together; they are two basic parties to the peace settlement and, ultimately, share a common fate. He stressed that Jordan and Palestine would join in a confederation after the establishment of the Palestinian state.

He said: As long as we talk about a common fate for the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples, we must know how to fulfill our objectives.

The Palestinian official categorically denied that the PLO is seeking to move its headquarters from Tunis to Amman. He said this is not correct, noting that the PLO has major departments in the Jordanian capital, and that the Palestinian leadership will remain in Tunis.

On Palestinian-Egyptian relations, he said Cairo supports the Palestinian position, although it plays the role of a mediator. As an Arab country, Egypt believes its primary task is to achieve Palestinian objectives through dialogue with Israel, he said. He added that the two sides have reached a common understanding on the principles approved by the PLO Central Council concerning the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, intended to take place in Cairo.

He said the Palestinian delegation that visited Cairo under his chairmanship held talks with senior Egyptian officials with a view to easing tension between the PLO and Egypt in the wake of campaigns by some Egyptian journalists against Palestinian leaders. The campaigns had led to a certain tepidness in relations. 'Abbas stressed that the talks enabled both sides to define a future strategy for handling any differences that may arise in a fraternal spirit, without recourse to media campaigns and mutual slander. He said Egyptian officials understood the Palestinian viewpoint.

Egypt, he added, agrees with the PLO on the principles announced by the PLO Central Council on 15 October—principles far removed from the Israeli position.

On 'Arafat's meeting with Swedish Foreign Minister Sten Andersson in Jazirat Jarabah in Tunisia Sunday [15 April] night, 'Abbas said Andersson brought no new ideas and just listened to us, since he is touring the Middle East in search of new proposals and formulas that can be presented to concerned parties. [passage omitted]

PLO Figures Comment on 'Arafat-Carter Meeting

PM1904154190 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 12 Apr 90 p 3

[Fathi Salih and Mansur 'Atiyah report: "What Does 'Arafat-Carter Meeting Mean?"]

[Text] What next after the 'Arafat-Carter meeting? This is a question which is being asked in Arab and Palestinian political circles in Cairo. The Carter-'Arafat meeting in French President Mitterrand's presence fell within the framework of the efforts being made to hold a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue with a view to arriving at a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem. And perhaps 'Arafat's statement after the meeting reflected its nature, especially as it was the first of its kind between president 'Arafat and a former U.S. president—a meeting which, without doubt, has a meaning.

'UKAZ explored the views of some Palestinian officials about these questions, so what did they say?

Palestine National Council Secretary Muhammad Subayh says: I hope the meeting will be the start of new development and a new vision in U.S. policy toward the Palestinian question. And I hope it will open the door to more effective steps toward a just and comprehensive solution of the Palestinian problem.

Subayh added that the Carter-'Arafat meeting was achieved primarily via European efforts, and President Mitterrand's role in that connection was clear. President Mitterrand emphasized that the EC is making progress toward dealing with the Palestinian people's cause.

Undoubtedly the 'Arafat-Carter meeting will give a chance for a breakthrough in the talks, especially as what is required of the United States is faster and more positive steps than those which we are experiencing now.

We need an Arab role which exerts pressure in order to advance the efforts being made so as to arrive at a solution that would realize stability in the region and recover the Palestinian people's usurped rights, including the right to self-determination and to establish their state.

PLO Executive Committee Member Jamal al-Surani said: We welcome former U.S. President Carter's meeting with 'Arafat, which is undoubtedly an important step. But what is more important is for us to seek further Arab solidarity and resolve all disputes and Syrian-Palestinian relations. That would undoubtedly prompt the United States to make further moves toward a just and comprehensive solution.

In his statement to 'UKAZ al-Surani added that peace is a daily dynamic political process, not a piece of paper which can be torn up at any moment. We want peace, and we did not go to Europe and the United States to fight the Jews. It is Europe and the United States which pushed the Jews into our territory to establish by force of arms a fictitious entity which has no foundations. And when we say we want peace, the Jews and their U.S. allies must realize that peace means that Israel's existence should be accepted by the Arabs, not through Israeli or U.S. force. If they do not accept this, the war would continue for hundreds of years.

Al-Surani added: In our view the danger is imminent and threatens every Arab state, and the Arabs have started to unite—which means that there are new realities. There is Egypt's return and Iraq's victory and its great technological power. We want the Arabs to achieve that technological advance. There is also the Palestinian intifadah, which has shaken the Zionist entity and proved that whatever Israel's power, whatever U.S. aid—including the veto—it receives, and whatever crimes it commits, the intifadah will continue, emphasizing the Palestinian people's identity and unity, their leadership's unity and their aim, and the Arab nation's support for the cause.

Perhaps these developments, in addition to the European role, tell the United States to make a move. But its move will be slow. Thus we must confront the dangers surrounding us. There are millions of new Jewish settlers who have been evacuated under an international deal although emigration laws and human rights do not apply to them.

So we say that we must plan for more effective steps. If we exercise our will once, we can change many axioms and destroy Israel's delusion of superiority.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, president 'Arafat's adviser, emphasized to 'UKAZ: Current developments in the region and at the international level have affected the situation in the United States. And I said in the past that there was a split in the U.S. view. It seems that U.S. President Bush is seeking to reactivate the situation via various channels. So the 'Arafat-Carter meeting falls within that framework. And we believe that that meeting should be developed further and made more effective so it can bear real fruit.

We believe that current developments in the region and the split in Israel over the Palestinian issue are signs which require further Arab and international moves toward peace and toward holding the proposed Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

The United States is urged to take more serious steps to advance the peace process, hold the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and develop the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue.

PLO Reportedly Negotiating for Arabsat Use

JN2004094290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0730 GMT
20 Apr 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 20 Apr (WAKH)—The PLO is currently negotiating to hire one quarter of the services of the Arab satellite station, Arabsat, for use in introducing advanced telephone lines connecting all PLO centers and offices in Arab capitals and in setting up a television broadcasting station beamed to the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Abu-Dhabi based AL-ITTIHAD cites informed Palestinian sources in Tunis as saying that discussions on this subject have gone a long way and that the PLO has obtained the approval of an Arab state to set up a transmission station through which it can relay direct transmissions to the occupied Palestinian territories.

Mahmud al-Zahhar Cited on Hamas, Soviet Jews

PM1904141290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 15 Apr 90 p 4

[Interview with Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, "a prominent Islamic symbol in the Palestinian intifadah," by Huda al-Husayni; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Husayni] You refused to take part in the preparatory committee meetings for the reform of the National Council. You of the Hamas (Islamic Resistance Movement) refuse to be National Council members before the Algiers resolutions are abandoned. So do you also reject the proclamation of the Palestinian state?

[Al-Zahhar] It was Hamas which rejected that. I do not speak on Hamas' behalf. I express my own view. Everyone wants to have his own state—a state that is capable of exercising its powers. The concept of a state is of a territory accommodating a people whose affairs are run by the authorities. We want these things. No one would refuse to have his own state, but such a state must not be unable to perform its duties. It must be translated into reality. I do not believe that anyone would refuse to have a state if such conditions are satisfied. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] You say that you do not speak on Hamas' behalf. What is your relationship with Hamas?

[Al-Zahhar] Hamas is part of the general Islamic tendency, which is engaged in a struggle in all directions. I am a Muslim, and in fact I have no links with any organization inside the occupied territories.

[Al-Husayni] Did you have links with Hamas in the past?

[Al-Zahhar] If I had any links, I would have been exposed to legal punishment by the Israeli authorities.

[Al-Husayni] Why do the Islamic groups refuse to join the unified national command of the intifadah?

[Al-Zahhar] I do not know why, but I can tell you my opinion: In fact, the Palestinian groups within the PLO adopt either a secular line or a Marxist line, and this conflicts totally with Islam. Thus we cannot adhere to a line which is not divine, since Islam is the religion of this nation. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] What are the borders of the state you are seeking to establish?

[Al-Zahhar] I said that a state is a territory with a people on it. And when there is a territory with a Muslim people on it, it will lie within the borders of the Islamic state.

[Al-Husayni] But what are the borders of the Palestinian state which you are demanding?

[Al-Zahhar] Its borders are the borders of the Palestinian state as a whole.

[Al-Husayni] With the elimination of Israel?

[Al-Zahhar] Muslims have never been against the Jews. There are tens of millions of Christians in the Islamic states and we have never heard of any injustices against them. The Jews have the right to live on Islamic territory, wherever and whenever they want, without any customs or traditions being forced on them. But Islam rejects the existence of an alternative blueprint to Islam. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] If the Jews are entitled to live wherever they want on Islamic territory, would you accept the Soviet Jews' coming to live on Palestinian territory?

[Al-Zahhar] If there is an Islamic state in which we live, yes, that is acceptable. But under the present situation, no. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Do you feel any threat from that emigration?

[Al-Zahhar] You can sense a danger when it is far away, but the emigration is an anti-Islamic policy and all Muslims must declare their rejection of it, because it is illogical and anti-historical. Besides, who says that the Soviets have the right to live on Palestine's territory and that those who were born there should be expelled?

They say they have the right to repatriation, so where in Palestine's territory did these Soviets' ancestors live? [passage omitted]

Report on Israeli Raid on PFLP-GC in Lebanon

JN1904115090 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1125 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following:

The Beirut correspondent of Al-Quds, the Palestinian Arab radio on the road to the liberation of land and man, has reported that the Zionist air force carried out a

second raid against the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] positions in Al-Na'imah.

At 1255 today, the Zionist air force carried out the first raid against the PFLP-GC positions in Al-Na'imah. The Al-Quds Radio correspondent in Beirut reports that no casualties were announced, while flames and columns of smoke were seen billowing from the hit area.

Our correspondent concluded by saying he would provide us with further details when he leaves for the area.

'Unknown' Group Claims Killing Israeli, Backs PLO

JN1904153590 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] A hitherto unknown organization calling itself the Islamic Movement for the Liberation of Palestine-Falah [al-harakah al-islamiyah li tahrir filastin-falah] sent a statement to the AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE office in Amman which said that on 4 March, the group killed an Israeli soldier named Levi Kohen after detaining him as captive for six months.

The movement said in its statement that it does not believe in capitulationist solutions and that it regards Palestine as an indivisible entity. At the same time, the movement affirms that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

OPEC Affairs

2 May Emergency Meeting on Falling Oil Prices

AU1904153290 Paris AFP in English 1515 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Paris, April 19 (AFP)—The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has called an emergency meeting of the agency's price monitoring committee for May 2 in Geneva to discuss ways of halting the recent downtrend in oil prices, a source close to the OPEC presidency said on Thursday. He said the decision was made by the current OPEC president, Algerian Oil Minister Sadek Boussena. The committee consists of the organization's eight main members: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran, Iraq, Algeria, Venezuela, Indonesia and Nigeria; but the meeting will be widened to include the other members, the source told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

There has been speculation for some time that an emergency meeting of the committee or of OPEC itself would be called.

Further on OPEC Meetings

*LD2004102190 Vienna OPECNA in English 0934 GMT
20 Apr 90*

[“Statement by His Excellency Sadek Boussena, Alternate President of the OPEC Conference”—dates as received]

[Text] Vienna, 20 Apr. 90 (OPECNA)—In view of the persistent deterioration in the international oil market, and following consultations over the past few days, it has been agreed to convene an urgent meeting of the eight member OPEC ministerial monitoring committee on 20 May 1990 in Geneva. Other heads of delegation, not members of the committee, are also to attend.

The committee will consider measures to be taken to arrest the current slide in prices and restore them to the desired OPEC level. In order to allow the measures to be taken time to take effect and improve the balance between supply and demand, the scheduled mid-year ordinary meeting of the OPEC conference fixed for 25th May, 1990 in Geneva, will now take place on 25th June, 1990 at the same venue.

Consultations will continue amongst ministers between now and the 2d of May when the committee meets, with the aim of formulating concrete proposals for implementation in the period up to the next ordinary meeting of the conference.

Algeria**Several Parties Urge Boycott of Friday Marches***LD1904123590 Algiers Domestic Service in French
0600 GMT 19 Apr 90*

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Five political parties met yesterday evening to form a delegation charged with asking the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], the FLN [National Liberation Front], and the UGTA [General Union of Algerian Workers] to postpone their marches planned for Friday. These parties, the PSD [Social Democratic Party], the APUA [Popular Association for Unity and Action], the MDA [Movement for Democracy in Algeria], the PHC [Man is Capital Party], and the OST [Socialist Workers' Organization], met again. The RCD [Rally for Culture and Democracy], the PAGS [Socialist Vanguard Party], the MDRA [Democratic Movement for Algerian Renewal], and the PSD of Mr. Khodja also met. They called on citizens to keep away from any expression of violence. They rejected the use of places of worship for political ends. They also called on all democrats to gather at their next meeting, at 1600 today at the El Safir Hotel.

As for the FFS [Socialist Forces' Front], it wonders why these large-scale maneuvers started in a political climate exacerbated by acts of violence and the aggravation of social problems. Who benefits from the disorder, asks the FFS. It calls on Algerians to remain at home and thus express their determination to defend civil peace and democracy. [passage omitted]

FLN Postpones Friday March Only in Algiers*LD1904230290 Algiers Domestic Service in French
2200 GMT 19 Apr 90*

[Text] The march called by National Liberation Front (FLN) for tomorrow, Friday 20 April in Algiers, has been postponed to a later date but the marches scheduled to be held in other parts of the country will take place. This was announced in a communique from the Secretariat General of the FLN party Central Committee published this evening. The communique says, I quote: The FLN's call for popular marches has been interpreted by certain circles as a countermarch to that of the Islamic Salvation Front and consequently it has aroused a certain legitimate fear for security in Algiers. This is why it should be recalled, stresses the communique, that the FLN march is focussed on one theme, that is, opposition to the use of mosques for partisan and electoral activities.

The FLN is determined, adds the communique, to raise this issue by various means and forms until its solution is found—a solution aiming to preserve the integrity and the main mission of the mosque. However, in order to avoid the possibility—however small—of causing security problems, the FLN has therefore decided to postpone to a later date the march scheduled to take place in Algiers tomorrow. The marches scheduled to be held outside Algiers will take place in conformity with the

decision, while making sure that necessary measures are taken to guarantee the security of citizens.

Foreign Minister Ghazali on Soviet Emigration*PM2004101990 Riyadh AL-RIYAD in Arabic
12 Apr 90 pp 1, 21*

[Khalid Kamil]

[Excerpts] Algiers—Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali has said that the most important issue facing the Arabs at present is the Soviet Jews' emigration to occupied Palestine. He urged the Arabs to confront it very strongly.

In his statement to AL-RIYAD the Algerian minister praised the Arab tripartite committee's efforts to resolve the Lebanese problem. He said: I thank the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Morocco for their efforts with us to resolve that problem. [passage omitted]

Ghazali emphasized that the most important issue facing the Arabs now is the Soviet Jews' emigration to Israel. It is a serious issue which is happening for the first time, and we must confront it very strongly, because, if it continues, it will lead to disastrous consequences, especially as the Soviet Union's position on the Palestinian cause is known. [passage omitted]

Ghazali said that Algeria is currently passing through an important and sensitive phase, as it is experiencing the start of a full democratic process. There is now full freedom and 22 parties are exercising their rights in full under democracy. Elections will be held in June, which will be a comprehensive test for democracy, and the people will be the first and last decisionmaker. They will decide their orientations. Actually the democracy which Algeria is currently experiencing is an auspicious sign and must be supported, preserved, and developed so it may last as long as possible and not be destroyed—something which the people are aware of.

Egypt**Foreign Ministry Spokesman Denies Border 'Clash'***NC1904125090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1235 GMT
19 Apr 90*

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA)—The Foreign Ministry's official spokesman today denied reports carried by some regional radios on a clash between Egyptian and Israeli military patrols along the international borders between the two countries. The spokesman stated that reports of such a clash are unfounded.

Comment on Recent Consultations Over U.S. Aid*NC2004095490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0750 GMT
20 Apr 90*

[Text] Washington, 20 Apr (MENA)—MENA has learned from well-informed sources here that Cairo and

Washington have held important consultations in the past few weeks over the issue of U.S. aid to Egypt. These contacts followed the recent proposals and demands raised in some U.S. circles to reduce American aid to countries that receive extensive assistance from the United States, including Egypt.

MENA has learned that, during these contacts, Egypt explained its viewpoint regarding U.S. aid in the short and long terms in general, and regarding current proposals to cut back this aid in particular. According to the sources, Egypt summed up its views in several points that were relayed to the U.S. Administration and Congress at the highest levels. The latest round of consultations was held during the past 48 hours, when Egyptian Ambassador in Washington 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Ridi held a series of meetings with several senior officials in the U.S. State Department and Congress. Present for some of the meetings was Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the People's Assembly's Foreign Affairs Committee, who arrived here a few days ago to deliver a lecture before a major research institution here next week.

The same sources indicated that in this respect Egypt first of all stressed that it understands why some parties are demanding a reduction in U.S. assistance to certain countries. However, it must be admitted that the principle of aid reduction is difficult to apply to "all cases" on an equal footing, in view of the considerable disparities among the recipients of U.S. aid. In Egypt's case, this principle is particularly difficult to apply at a time when the Egyptian Government is embarking on an ambitious economic reform plan, the implementation of which will result in further burdens requiring backing from Egypt's friends, foremost among which is the United States.

Egypt also pointed out that it has begun its economic reform plan to streamline its economy and gradually lessen its reliance on foreign aid. Thus, a reduction in foreign assistance at this particular time will negatively affect its ability to carry out the required economic reforms which the United States itself is recommending. The same sources noted that, before the recent proposals for cuts in U.S. aid were made, Egypt was endeavoring to obtain more flexibility in using this assistance. Egypt had succeeded in achieving this in part, though in a limited way, the sources said.

The same sources added that—regarding the January proposals, which caused a big controversy, for a five percent cut in assistance to the countries that are the largest recipients of U.S. aid—Egypt told American officials that even if this principle were to be followed, the rate could not apply to all countries irrespective of their size or the number of beneficiaries receiving this assistance. In a country with a small population, the per capita share of aid could amount to \$10,000 annually, as is the case in some countries, while in an overpopulated country like Egypt the per capita share in aid could be less than \$50 per year.

In addition, Egypt raised two other important points. The first is that U.S. aid to Egypt is being spent on specific, well-planned development projects, as well as on the purchase of military equipment and weapons manufactured by U.S. firms. The second point is that the U.S. aid program to Egypt has played an important role within the framework of the efforts to achieve stability in the Middle East.

Egyptian Ambassador 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Ridi underscored these points in a letter that dealt in part with the issue of U.S. aid to Egypt and was recently published in THE NEW YORK TIMES.

As is known, Egypt receives \$2.1 billion in aid from the United States per year, of which \$1.2 billion constitutes military assistance, and the remainder economic assistance. Egypt gets the second biggest portion of foreign aid given by the United States after Israel, which receives \$3 billion in aid every year, in addition to soft loans and credits in various fields.

People's Assembly Official Returns From USSR

NC2004064490 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Dr. Muhammad Hasan al-Zayyat, chairman of the People's Assembly's Arab Affairs Committee, returned to Cairo last night from the Soviet Union after a five-day visit in response to an invitation from the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Asian and African Countries.

In an arrival statement, Dr. al-Zayyat said the Soviet leaders are looking forward to President Husni Mubarak's visit to the Soviet Union. This visit, he added, is aimed at strengthening relations between the two countries. He noted that the Soviet Union takes the view that Egypt is a country with international political weight, particularly in the wake of its return to the Arab fold, and that as a result extensive discussions are required between officials of the two countries.

Dr. al-Zayyat added that the Soviet Union still believes in the need to hold an international conference for peace in the Middle East.

Regarding the emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel, Dr. al-Zayyat said the Soviet officials had stressed that the Soviet Union will not agree to establish direct flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv to transfer the Soviet Jews. It views the settlement of these Jews in the occupied West Bank and Gaza as a violation of international commitments prohibiting demographic changes in the occupied Arab territories, he said.

Libya

Sudanese RCC Official Arrives 19 April

LD1904220890 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Staff Major General al-Tijani Ahmad al-Tahir, member of the fraternal Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC], and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this evening for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyyah. Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir welcomed him upon arrival at Tripoli International Airport. [passage omitted]

Mauritania

Minister Signs Financial Agreement With FRG

AB1904221490 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Summary] Planning and Development Minister Moustapha Ould Abeiderrahmane and the FRG ambassador to Mauritania, Helmut van Edig, today signed a financial cooperation agreement involving 2 million Deutsche marks—about 100 million ouguiyas. The amount will be used to rehabilitate Mauritians repatriated from Senegal.

Sudan

'Ali Sahlul on Ties With Libya, Other Issues

PM1904152590 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 16 Apr 90 pp 15-16

[Interview with Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul by Rashid Khashanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khashanah] Why has Sudan not joined any of the three [Arab] councils, but has contented itself with developing integration ties with Libya?

[Sahlul] Libya has helped and played a major part in enabling us to confront the conspiratorial onslaught aimed against Sudan. Besides, we are facing the same threats. The two countries are targeted by the same quarter—the United States. And I believe that so long as there are sincere intentions, so long as we need one another, and so long as the brothers in Libya understand their pan-Arab duty, it seems natural for Sudan and the Jamahiriyyah to look after one another. As for relations with the Arab councils, we note that at present the Arab Cooperation Council is busy with its internal affairs. It is in the stage of formation and is concentrating primarily on developing relations among the member states. And I do not know whether its members are ready to welcome the admission of a state like Sudan under present conditions.

Whatever the answer, there is one fact, namely, that these states have never ignored Sudan. The brothers in

Arab Yemen cooperated with us within the limits of their resources, and leader al-Bashir visited them. The brothers in Iraq too offered a great deal for Sudan. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] Will some former party leaders be allowed to participate in the general conference?

[Sahlul] They will participate, and some of them are enthusiastic about it. We are benefiting from their past experience. And I am not saying that all who took part in political life in the past were not responsible people or selfish. Many of them are responsible intellectuals and familiar with the country's problems and concerned about the country's future. Some of them have started to engage in political activities. [passage omitted]

[Khashanah] Will Sudan ask for the rescheduling of its debts?

[Sahlul] The rescheduling of debts cannot often be done directly. It has to be decided within the framework of the Paris Club. And I do not think they have put pressure on us to force us to pay. But we also see the aid flowing to enable us to cope with the burdens facing us at the economic level, at the level of the war in the south, or even at the level of the implementation of some projects which in a few years—that is, if we start on them now—would ease our burdens and place the country on the road to food sufficiency. We are following that road, which will certainly produce tangible results. [passage omitted]

Envoy To Leave for Chad With Al-Bashir Message

EA1904111690 Khartoum SUNA in English 0942 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Apr (SUNA)—Foreign Minister 'Ali Sahlul will leave today for Chad, leading a high-level delegation on a two-day official visit during which he will deliver a message from the chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir to the Chadian President Hissene Habre. The message is dealing with bilateral relations and means for boosting them further.

On the other hand, deputy chairman of the RCC Gen. al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih affirmed that Sudan is always working for realising stability in Chad, indicating that the current situation in Chad is the same of that before the eruption of the revolution in Sudan. Gen. al-Zubayr reassured that integration between Sudan and Libya is not directed against any country.

Omani Envoy Meets With Al-Bashir on Leaving Post

EA1904101690 Khartoum SUNA in English 0935 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Apr (SUNA)—Chairman of the Revolution Command Council Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir met here yesterday the ambassador of Sultanate of Oman to Khartoum, Mubarak Ibn-Khalfan on the occasion of

the expiry of his office term. The meeting discussed means of boosting bilateral relations in all fields, the ambassador said in press statement following the meeting.

Tunisia

Interior Ministry Denies Torture of Detainee

LD1904192790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1700 GMT 19 Apr 90

['Communique' issued by the Tunisian Ministry of the Interior in Tunis on 19 April]

[Text] The ministry has examined a communique issued by the person named 'Ali Laaridh [leading member and spokesman of the Islamic Ennahdha Movement] in which he claims some of his followers have been arrested and subjected to severe torture in police stations, citing as an example the case of the person named Hedi Bejaoui who, according to the allegations of the communique, was subjected to severe torture in the police headquarters of the Ariana District, and to electric shocks at the central premises of the ministry.

In response to these fabrications, the ministry affirms its great eagerness to protect the bodily sanctity of citizens and categorically denies that any detainees in the security stations have for any reason ever been subjected to any form of brutality.

Concerning the person named Hedi Bejaoui, he was arrested for 24 hours in the evening of 9 April to 10 April to investigate his involvement in prohibited activities. He was released without being subjected to any acts of brutality. During the hours of detention, he was subjected to a medical examination at his request after his claim that he had a chronic disease. The doctor did not notice any traces of violence on him, as shown by the medical certificate.

The ministry announces its intention to ask for a judicial investigation into the matter, and it welcomes the participation of the two movements for the defense of human rights, in this investigation according to the law. In light of the results of the investigation, the ministry will take whatever action is necessary to deter any excesses and transgression on the bodily sanctity of detainees in the event this proves to be the case. On the

other hand, the ministry will take the necessary judicial measures in the event the investigation refutes the claims of the person named 'Ali Laaridh, given the defamation and false news carried by these claims, which perturb the atmosphere of public order.

Left Wing Sets Up Joint Front; Salah Returns

LD1904182890 Paris International Service
in French 1230 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] In Tunisia the lay opposition is trying to break the close relationship between the Islamicists and the authorities: three Tunisian left-wing parties have decided to set up a joint front to put an end to the dual focus of political life in their country. The three parties held a news conference in Tunis yesterday. The news conference was characterized by the return to front of the political arena by former Planning Minister Ahmed Ben Salah. From Tunis, here is Rida Boughezi:

[Boughezi] After an 18-year exile and a presidential pardon granted by the new regime, Bourguiba's former super-minister of the economy, Ahmed Ben Salah, the father of collectivization in Tunisia, yesterday made his return to the political arena on the occasion of this tripartite news conference. His party, the Movement of Popular Unity, which, however, is not recognized, is one of the initiators, together with the Movement of Socialist Democrats and the Tunisian Communist Party, of a joint political declaration, the first of its kind in Tunisia.

In the declaration the three movements call for cleaning up the general political climate and advocate as an alternative a new model of society, a model which would represent a split from the negative aspects of the present situation, and which has the particular aim of building and consolidating a civilian and democratic state and of rejecting the plan for a religious state. The plan, which according to the declaration is incompatible with the demands of the time and the aspirations of Tunisian society, has no relation to the origins of Arab-Islamic civilization. This position clearly cannot be to the taste of the Tunisian Islamicists who hoped to be able to flirt with the tripartite front to get out of their isolation. This isolation has been strengthened among Tunisian public opinion by the behavior of Algerian fundamentalists. It is perhaps not by chance the Tunisian Islamicists yesterday issued an appeal for calm to their brothers in Algeria.

President Addresses Arab Parliamentary Union*JN1904202790 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1805 GMT 19 Apr 90*

["Text" of speech by President Saddam Husayn "while attending part of the meetings of the extraordinary conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union" in Baghdad on 19 April—recorded]

[Text] My brothers, I reiterate congratulations to you, and I beseech God to let us celebrate Ramadan while the Arab and Islamic nations are in a better situation. As we know from the lessons God taught to Gabriel and then conveyed to the Prophet Muhammad—may God's peace and blessing be upon him—as a message to mankind, the most important thing that makes man content is knowing his rights, which God has bestowed upon him, are safeguarded, and that he enjoys peace and security. This is the essence of our talks as Arabs at all conferences, and is at the heart of all our statements. Statements might not be exactly the same, but they have the same essence. The Arabs have the right to live as a nation as they were created, and to have their rights safeguarded according to God's laws. As you know, as experienced men, it seems the contemporary age does not have God's law as a criterion, nor has it any consideration for values, particularly those who call themselves big powers.

As we have said several times, we always have borne the Arabs in mind in all we have said. We said we will not submit to material standards as viewed by the big powers. We will seek—and our efforts here are interpreted as jihad—and adhere to the standards of God, however, because they are most eternal and cannot be unjust to anyone. If these standards are applied to Palestine and Jerusalem, then rights here are very clear. But some say the Arabs are in a position in which they cannot defend their rights, and because they are in such a position, as viewed by those who claim this, then a term should be invented and should be called the rights of others at the expense of the Arabs. We do not agree with this logic. When I say we do not submit to such logic, I say it as an official and as an Arab—first as an Arab, second as an official. This is the essence of what is taking place against Iraq. It is not because Iraq has ambitions, a hostile current, or a plan to clash with anyone. This has nothing to do with our efforts to demand our rights. It is because Iraq is an Arab country, and the unjust campaign is being launched against Iraq because it has reached a point that seems, according to their calculations, to be a stage it is not allowed to reach. Perhaps, of course, there are other states in the Arab homeland which, according to their standards, should not be allowed to attain such a stage. But the campaign is launched against Iraq because they are required to choose a link from the strong links to focus on it, and because they believe they can isolate this link from the Arab nation and consequently weaken it to be a lesson for the other strong links in the Arab homeland. It is natural that in accordance with the results they believe they can produce from this battle, the weakest links will

remain as they are. You can imagine how it will be. This is what they want, what they wish. Does this suit the Arabs? This is the question we ask. Before we ask whether this suits the Iraqis, we ask: Does it suit the Arabs? We say it does not suit the Arabs. I mean that if this could happen [not further specified], then it would put the Arabs in an inappropriate position. Saying no, therefore, urgently requires the support of all Arabs, not only Iraq. When the nation needs to say no, regardless of sacrifices, then the nation should calculate the situation according to the losses needed to change the situation.

Based on this argument, we relied on God and said: No. We said it openly and forcefully and repeatedly, even to those U.S. Congress members who visited Iraq. We told them more. We said: Have you forgotten your humanitarianism to the extent the Arabs now have a further obligation to save your humanitarianism from the immense pressure that is befalling you—a pressure which now is forcing you to deviate from all humanitarian concepts?

This is what we said verbatim. We told them more, and this is all published: What is required is for our enemy to be armed with all types of weapons. Because we are Arab, we are not required to have any weapons. We should be armed within limits that will enable the Arabs' enemies to battle with all the Arabs and triumph over them. Is this what God wanted for the Arabs when He told them: You are the best of peoples, evolved for mankind? In the Koran, God wanted for the Arabs an obvious, clear, and definite place. He favored the Arabs by giving them their language and their place, insisting all the prophets and messengers be Arab.

This operation is anti-God in the first place before being anti-Arab. This is our understanding as Arabs of the various religions—not only as Muslims. The Christian Arabs also have the same concept. Christ, peace be upon him, moreover is Arab. Even in the Mosaic doctrine, this action is anti-God. It therefore is our right as a nation to adopt our choice and to reject all the processes that force us to choose the opposite of what we want.

We ask those who pay lip service to human rights: Is this not one of the rights of man? What a farce is this talk about the rights of man! They defend a spy, but are killing men in Palestine and elsewhere within sight and earshot of the world.

This is essentially what we said. This is essentially what we have reaffirmed. The statement that we are part of the Arab nation is a fact. Can anyone deny his own roots? We are part of the Arab nation. Being this part, and having been guided by what we have found—which is right—we have duties to the Arab nation. Among these duties is to be side by side or even in front of the Arab whose right is usurped, although we are proud of every Arab from the Arabian Gulf to the Atlantic Ocean. An Arab whose right is usurped may not be able to restore it. It is our opinion the good Arabs are those who restore their rights. There is nothing to prevent the weak Arab

from requesting his Arab brother to restore his right for him. When we say we are Arabs and that Iraq is part of the Arab nation, we should not say only the Palestinians are responsible for restoring their rights in Palestine.

Therefore, there is no contradiction. This is not a political theory. This is understood, even by all shepherds on the Arab land. From shepherds to heads of state: All have this simple understanding of the notion we are one Arab nation. This, moreover, is not new; this is not the first time we have said it, so they cannot say this is a new theory that must be resisted. This is what we read in the elementary school. What we read in the elementary school was not written by an Iraqi. It was written by Sati' al-Husari, Abu-Khaldun. His book is known as the Khalduniyah book of prose. That is it. We learned this when the regime was not republican. Saddam Husayn was a small elementary school student.

The first thing I learned is the Arabs are one nation, and the Arab countries are my homeland from Damascus to Baghdad, from Najd to Yemen, from Egypt to Morocco.

That was the poem we used to sing in schools. This is not a theory, but a reality. This reality is described at one stage as one thing and at another stage another thing, but it is reality. We say we are part of a nation called the Arab nation. We have duties and rights, just as the Indian who says I am of the Indian nation; as the American who says I am part of the American nation, although the Americans are collected from all regions of the world; as the French, who say they are part of the French nation.

Do they want, because of their mistake—rather, their big crime—represented by their usurpation of our lands and their infringement on our rights in Palestine, to deny us from even saying we are one nation? They colonized Algeria for 130 years. But they have not changed, they have not managed to change the soul of the Algerians. The Algerians have retained their soul. As for the Gulf states, when they sit together, they understand each other. They think according to the same perspective. Their ways of thinking are subject to the law of equal pressures, if we are to use a figure of speech. You observe yourselves when you discuss things, and I can see this; you reach an understanding in no time. Why is this the case? That is because you feel in your minds and consciences that you are facing the same issues. You also are aware that not only present circumstances dictate this understanding be maintained. No, there is an awareness that, for us to be part of the future and to maintain a strong presence in this future, we must show solidarity in this world.

So, when Iraq made statements, they were not made in the name of Iraqis. No, its statements were made on behalf of you all, regardless of your whereabouts at the time. We are sure this statement was intended to be as strong or stronger than it was. Some of our Arab brothers might have blamed us for some words. They might have wanted stronger words. It is possible, however, that they

are unable to make the statements with the same force. In their minds and hearts, they want a stronger statement. Then let he who is ready or prepared to absorb the first shock make this statement. That is fine, because sacrifices made anywhere by the Arab nation are the same sacrifices. If the sacrifices are made by Iraq, Egypt, Syria, Jordan or Algeria, they remain sacrifices made by the nation. The reference here is to the sacrifices, whether they be in funds, men, or opportunities.

Your country Iraq has said these words and repeated them, providing further confirmation. Now, I have nothing to add but to say: We reiterate that we will employ the highest level of strength you want [applause], saying God urges us to pursue peace with he who desires peace. God in the holy Koran calls himself peace [al-Salam]. We Arabs are taught to address Arabs or non-Arabs when we see them by saying: Peace be upon you. Whether we are Muslims or Christians, when we see someone, we address him by saying: Peace be upon you. This applies to people who belong to various sects, denominations, or groups. This is our peace. Our enthusiasm for attaining peace is stronger than the desires of anyone, regardless of where he is, who might want peace. But this description is not enough. We want a peace that gives us our rights, just as he who seeks peace with his rights. We do not deny anyone his rights, which are granted to him by Almighty God.

Man's human rights are clearly spelled out in the holy Koran. They were applied in the bright eras of our Arab and Islamic history. This was being applied even when some of those who now are talking about human rights were sleeping in caves. Human rights were spelled out in detail, not only in our book, but also in our doctrines and records. We have examples to support our argument. The great men from among the ranks of our Arab Muslim people provided these examples. The country that spoke, and whose statements they found to be outrageous, is a country that fought for eight years, a country that knows what war means. It is not a country that does not know what war means. This country does not want war. It wants what is right. It wants what is right, and it will not concede on this right, because Arabs will not concede on this right. If they see Iraq making concessions, however, our brothers in Qatar, no offense intended, might say: If Iraq makes concessions, how are we to fight singlehandedly to vindicate right? They might blame and—God forbid—curse Iraq under such a situation. Historically speaking, Iraq has acquired a specific status. This has been well known since days of old. Likewise, Syria has acquired a specific status, just as Algeria has acquired a certain status. Then each of us has to pursue a policy proportionate to his own moral leverage and capabilities. I am not referring to his magnitude or size. Each of us would be blameworthy if he did not make statements vindicating rights proportionate to his moral leverage and capabilities. We must understand each other. We must not be bothered if some of our brothers, due to their moral leverage and capabilities, make statements or act in a manner that

does not befit a certain Arab state. This must be understood. We must support each other so all of us can become strong. The quest for a leadership role regarding this is not being sought. I cross it out. I rule it out. The search for a leadership position disrupts things. I would be honored if I were to become a soldier in the convoy or the army that would liberate holy Jerusalem. [applause]

In my first speech on the convocation of the first Arab Cooperation Council summit in Baghdad, the most important point I wanted to stress was leadership and the concept of leadership. As far as I can remember, I said the leader was none of us, but that the leader was that particular state produced by the interaction of our views and resources—a state that excels the power of any one of us as an individual. Indeed, I continue to say this is the concept that makes the Arabs, politically and actually, one nation. It is a natural matter that people have varying assessments. Appreciation is enough if we are right, and if we go wrong, an alert is sufficient to make us go back on our mistake. Jerusalem is Arab and Palestinian. Jerusalem is neither Israeli nor Zionist. Jerusalem has been usurped. Jerusalem must be returned to its people. Is there an interference in internal affairs that is more haughty, arrogant, and brazen than the U.S. Senate's resolution? It is there in Washington, and it decides Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. If the politicians in Israel have dignity, and really are convinced they are right, how can they accept that any country says from far away: We have decided Jerusalem be the capital of Israel? This is one of the indications that they know they have no right in this resolution, because they accepted this decision from another country, although they are represented there.

This is one thing. The other thing is, how did the Senate members agree, before their own dignity and humanity, to decide what is false? How did they accept that? How did they accept that, while they continuously talk about human rights and democratic liberties and consider us to be people who are still very far away from human rights and democratic liberties? How did they agree to encroach on a fixed liberty, and say it belongs to others who have nothing to do with it? How can the people of the United States accept that an Israeli prime minister tells their president: I will come to the United States and enter the Congress to see which one of us will pass a resolution. If he were an Arab, he would have been told by God: If you come, you will be torn into four pieces, and a great clamor will arise. How can I accept that while in my country, someone comes to tell me he will come to my country to see which one of us will pass a resolution? In my country? He [President Bush] accepted that. He calls himself President and has a flag and guards. Do you see how values are being shaken, and how standards are being reversed in the world of today? It is regrettable to say that in the world of today, there are people who understand what is right only when you strongly stress it. Sometimes, they understand decency as weakness.

Your brothers in Iraq are at the service of the Arab cause. They modify any move, statement, and thought process

only when they find the Arabs reject it, because in such a case, this means your Iraqi brothers have gone wrong. It is virtue to go back on one's own mistake. We will not disavow any statement, act, or thinking that you deem acceptable, even if all people—with our respect for them—meet and make threats. We are being unjust to no one. We are demanding no one's territory; nor do we want to encroach on the dignity of anyone. We are defending our dignity as Arabs, not only as Iraqis. We are defending our security and want no one to harm our security. We are defending our homeland, which has been part of the Arab homeland since time immemorial. We, the ones in this hall, respect others' rights, but they should respect our rights. We respect their sovereignty, but they should respect our sovereignty. We respect their security, but they should respect our security. But if they want to break all that and still want respect from us, there will be no respect or obedience, except to what is right.

I came by to see you and greet you, because I have a guest from your Arab brothers. I had no choice but to come quickly to see you, greet you, and thank you, although you are in your Baghdad and the issue is not that of the Iraqis only, but your issue as well. You are welcome. [applause]

Envoy Comments on Nuclear Program, Capability

LD1904161290 Vienna OPECNA in English 1503 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Vienna, 19 Apr. 90 (OPECNA)—The Iraqi nuclear programme is for purely peaceful purposes, the country's ambassador to Austria, Dr Rahim A. al-Kital, said today.

Addressing the United Nations correspondents association, al-Kital affirmed that "the only nuclear reactor we have in operation is of five MW capacity of the Russian type supplied in the 1960s ... we do not have any facilities capable of work with uranium or plutonium or any of these materials". He said Iraq was a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and as such had assumed the obligation of not seeking to acquire nuclear weapons.

This commitment by Iraq, he added, had been reinforced at various official levels, the most recent being that of the president of the country itself, Saddam Husayn, who declared earlier this month that "Iraq does not need nuclear weapons and it is not trying to acquire these weapons."

On the political side, al-Kital said "there is a solemn commitment by the country not to seek to obtain nuclear weapons".

He said Iraq had signed a safeguards agreement with the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), putting all its nuclear facilities under the agency's safeguards.

He said the agency started inspection of the Iraqi nuclear facilities in 1972 and "for 18 years now no deviation or accounting violations of nuclear materials have been reported". He added that all imports and exports of nuclear materials had to be reported under the NPT.

"So there is a double check, one from the exporting countries side and one by the importing side," he argued.

The envoy further disclosed that the United States, the United Kingdom and other states were obliged under the NPT to facilitate the widest possible exchange of technological information on the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

He called on nuclear power states to renounce the possession of nuclear weapons gradually so that "one day all NPT members become non-nuclear weapons states".

He said an IAEA report on Iraq's nuclear facilities, inspected last week by two IAEA officials, would be released next week by the agency.

Saddam Talks With 'Arafat, Palestinian Leadership

JN2004071390 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2045 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received this evening Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, and members of the Palestinian leadership. The meeting lasted six hours.

'Arafat and the Palestinian leadership expressed their pride in Iraq's role and in leader Saddam Husayn and his brave confrontation of Israeli threats against the Arab nation, the Palestinian people, and inalienable Palestinian rights, with all that this confrontation means in terms of providing the Arab deterrent strength to face Israeli arrogance and aggression and U.S. domination of the Arab homeland's destiny—strength for which the Arabs have been waiting for decades.

The Palestinian leadership affirmed the Iraqi stance has, for the first time, given the intifadah further strength and vitality and has boosted its morale in confronting the Zionist occupation.

Emphasis was laid on the need to establish an official and popular base to effect comprehensive, balanced support for Iraq against Zionist and imperialist aggression and threats, and thereby guarantee Arab and Palestinian rights.

President Saddam Husayn praised the Palestinian people's struggle and sacrifices and the heroic role of the brave intifadah.

The meeting addressed the requirements of joint Arab action in the next phase.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, attended.

President Receives Message From Al-Bashir

JN1904141190 Baghdad INA in English 1339 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 19, INA—President Saddam Husayn received a written message from General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution.

The message has been received by Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council during his meeting with Brig. al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice chairman of the Sudanese RCC and his accompanying delegation.

Mr 'Izzat Ibrahim expressed, during the meeting, hope that visit of the delegation would consolidate the brotherly and cooperation relations between the two countries in the way serving their joint interests and consolidating capabilities of the Arab nation in countering challenges.

Mr. Ibrahim reviewed Iraq's efforts and stances for establishing peace in the area and its steady endeavour for enhancing its pan-Arab role for the purpose of preserving unity, security and dignity of the Arab nation.

Brig. al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, the Sudanese RCC vice chairman expressed appreciation of Iraq's national stands, reiterating Sudan's stand by it and its support to the talk of President Saddam Husayn in facing the aggressive campaigns aimed not only against Iraq but the entire Arab nation.

He said that Iraq's stances under leadership of President Saddam Husayn reminded us of the glorious history of the Arab nation that is now repeating its glory and power by virtue of these stances.

Brotherly relations and means of developing them in all fields in addition of reviewal [as received] of Arab and international issues of common interest were discussed during the meeting.

Saddam Receives Djibouti President's Message

JN1904142890 Baghdad INA in English 1345 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, April 19, INA—President Saddam Husayn has received a message from President Hassan Gouled of Djibouti.

The message was delivered to Mr Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council's member and first deputy premier, by Mr Abdukader Waberi Askar, speaker of the Djibouti Chamber of Deputies, during a meeting here today.

INA learnt that the message dealt with reaffirming Djibouti's stand in support of Iraq in combating the anti-Iraq, Zionist, American and British campaign as well as President Gouled's regards and congratulations

to President Husayn on the occasion of the second anniversary of liberating the southern Iraqi town of al-Faw.

Mr Ramadan conveyed President Husayn's regards to President Gouled and renewed Iraq's desire to further develop relations with Djibouti.

Paper on Right To Respond to Israeli 'Adventure'

JN2004084790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT
20 Apr 90

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said the mistaken Anglo-American-Zionist analysis holds that the Soviet retreat and developments in East Europe have created an encouraging atmosphere for grabbing the keys to the Third World, and to the Arab world in particular.

In an article published today, the paper says: It appears those minds, which are saturated with aggressive and expansionist inclinations, have forgotten those peoples achieved their independence through efforts and sacrifices unmatched in this era.

The paper says the mentality of this Anglo-American-Zionist alliance cannot give up its obsession

to dominate and exert hegemony over the people's resources. Otherwise, the paper says, how could anyone, anywhere in the world, explain the frenzied and unjustified campaigns stirred up by Zionist and imperialist circles against Iraq, which has not threatened anyone, intervened in the domestic affairs of any country, or encroached on anyone's sovereignty?

The paper goes on to say: It is not Iraq's fault if members of this hostile alliance have seen in the Iraqi warning to the Zionist entity a threat and a provocation. The fault lies in their view of international relations and their inability to understand the others' right to sovereignty. The warning against an unwise adventure that the Zionist entity is preparing in the first place against Iraq, and even the response to it, is a firmly established principle within the context of national sovereignty and is an essential part of the national security of any nation that wants progress and a secure future for its people.

The paper concludes by saying: U.S. falsehoods, and those of its followers, have reached an unacceptable level in international relations. They have become a source of anxiety and tension in the region and a premeditated attempt to abort hopes for peace and security in the region.

Prime Minister Addresses Likud Central Committee
TA1904154990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1436 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the Likud Central Committee meeting at Binyeney Ha'uma in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] Mr. Central Committee Chairman, Mr. Vice Party Chairman, ministers, my good friend the Knesset speaker, Central Committee members, dear friends! We live in difficult times for the Israeli political system. I am not one of those who believe our democracy is absolutely bankrupt, or that the electoral and the administrative system has reached a dead end. Every system has weaknesses and shortcomings; none is ideal. I admit that perhaps our systems need amendments and changes; some of the suggestions raised in the country these days are acceptable to me. Rash action, however, cannot be beneficial. Let us not be hasty; we must make a thorough inspection of every aspect, mainly those which can affect the state's functioning. It also is essential to consult with partners in both the Cabinet and the Knesset. Most importantly, the key to the correct functioning of any system is in the hands of those who operate it and the people who live with it, exploiting its advantages and weaknesses. If those in charge do not act responsibly; if they place personal interests above those of the public and the country; if opportunism rages and takes over; then any system, even the best, even one concocted in the most advanced scientific laboratory, will encounter crises and ruin the entire administration.

Dear friends, during its entire history, both in opposition and in government, the Likud Movement has taken pride in the fact it was founded and has been active in the service of the nation and the country; that governing is no more than a means toward the implementation of its ideology for the benefit of the nation and the country; and most important—that Eretz Yisra'el is, above all else, something more than just territory to be argued about, discussed, and analyzed. [applause] This is the essence of this country, to which our brethren looked upon in the course of many centuries. I permit myself, therefore, to turn to each and every one of the convention members sitting here with a heartfelt appeal: Let us all act according to our party's tradition, ideals, and principles on which we were all raised. Let us be respectful toward each other; let us remember the key to the solution of our country's problems lies to a great extent in our hands, in our very hands.

Any retrospective investigation in a bid to find names that can be faulted with the situation of the Israeli political system is useless at this time. Let us leave this task to reporters, who write one thing one day and the opposite the next day, and to historians who are great experts at assessing the past, who are even capable of distorting it, but who are incompetent at predicting the future.

One aspect of the affair with which we will deal today merits mention, because it will have far-reaching repercussions regarding our international situation. We all know, everyone is familiar with Yitzhaq Shamir's opinion of a national unity government. I have been long in favor of this concept; I was one of the first to fly this flag several years ago. I took this course because I fully believed this is what the country needs. I will stress again that the good of the country always must be held above any other consideration, and even tonight I will not budge from this principle. This principle of the benefit of the nation and the country [applause] is the only [moderator's side remark superimposed over Shamir's voice] in public life.

We have had a six-year partnership with the Alignment, during which we learned—and I do not think we need to go into detail—that the Alignment's conduct was neither honorable nor loyal, although ours was and theirs should have been, as they were our partners in a joint government. The Alignment did not act according to government guidelines, its emissaries in the government often held contacts with foreign elements behind the backs of authorized government representatives. Each of us knows what the significance of this behavior is: No goal, no target in the sphere of foreign relations and defense could be achieved as long as the government did not speak with one voice and take unanimous action. These are the true reasons for the crisis of the Israeli political system. Neither the electoral system nor any other factors should be blamed, it was that conduct in the most vital and serious spheres that brought about the crisis. The public must be made aware of this and pass judgment in anticipation of the day when it is requested to determine who is to be entrusted with the government today and tomorrow. We must not allow these facts to be erased from the Israelis' collective memory, because they are very important to all of us and to the country's future.

Earlier, I mentioned the guidelines of the national unity government. What has befallen these guidelines? Last Wednesday at the Knesset, when Mr. Peres was supposed to present his government, we received the proposed guidelines of that government, which was never presented after all. What did we see? That the guidelines had undergone a change! Two fundamental things suddenly disappeared from the platform of the unrepresented government: The formerly decided ban on establishment of a Palestinian state and on negotiations with the PLO. Was this accidental? [applause] What is there to talk about when one compares the document outlining the guidelines of the unity government, which I myself presented, with that other document outlining the guidelines of Mr. Peres' proposed government? What is there to reflect on? What can be done with such a government? What risks does it entail? What can we expect from it if it is formed, God forbid? This is what we are fighting for, this is why we have rounded up all our forces. We do not have to prove to the world Israel is a peace-loving country. We are a country surrounded by hordes of

enemies threatening us with various cruel weapons: chemical, bacteriological, and whatnot. We are a country against which boycott and terror have been employed; a country obliged to counter violence and intifada; a country confronted with the enormous challenge of absorbing hundreds of thousands of immigrants; a country laden with the gravest economic problems. Is it conceivable such a country would not desire peace with all its heart? If there is anyone who wishes to separate and divide the nation into one half desiring peace and another half that does not, he is a liar and a libeler [sustained applause, making Shamir's remarks inaudible]

Do we not know the truth? There is someone who wants to delude the nation into believing he alone can bring peace; that if we only agree to sign on a few dotted lines, agree to this or that concession, peace will come and all the problems will be solved. There is no greater lie than that. The State of Israel was willing to accept peace, to negotiate for peace, and to agree to peace the first day it was established, and if there is no peace, it is the fault of all the Arab countries. [applause] This is the truth! This is the fundamental truth which must not be concealed or forgotten. We know the truth: Our neighbors will consent to make peace with us when they reach the conclusion Israel cannot be beaten in any war, that we cannot be coerced into anything by either force or threats. They will join genuine negotiations when they realize Israel is strong and self-confident, that Israel is united and unanimous, and that it cannot be divided from within.

It is true, the achievement of peace depends on us as well. If we do our best to gather our diaspora, we will dispel our enemies' hope we can be beaten by the demographic weapon. [applause] Peace will be at hand if the world realizes we are united and determined regarding unified Jerusalem, our eternal capital. [applause; words indistinct] in the hearts of our adversaries by agreeing to grant the Jerusalem Arabs' representation at the negotiating table. I, therefore, will say the following—not as a slogan, but as a fact, a reality, and there is no force in the world that can alter this reality: Here, in Jerusalem, one fact should be repeated, even for the thousandth time—the status of Jerusalem is not subject to any negotiations whatsoever! [applause]

Friends! This convention was called for one unique purpose. I am appealing to all of you to treat the issue at hand with a comprehensive view of the goal I have presented and for which we are waging this struggle and will continue doing so. If we are successful, if we win, and if we do what is required, we will be able to wage a war for the attainment of that goal! [applause]

Today, we are confronted with only one goal: To stop the Alignment from forming a government and to force it to return the mandate to the president. [applause; words indistinct] important, justified, and relevant as they may be, must be postponed until this important goal is achieved. I will remind you of the statement I made at the beginning of my address: The Likud exists to serve

the nation and the country, and the national interests must guide us in our decisionmaking, particularly at this time of upheavals and crises.

Friends! The agreement we are requested to ratify today may be offensive to some fine, loyal, trustworthy, and respected colleagues. I am referring, first and foremost, to the fine, the excellent comrades from the former Liberal Party, who have been our partners for a long time. [applause; moderator says Shamir is referring to Minister Moshe Nisim; words indistinct] with all their hearts [words indistinct] Today each of us must make a private decision to stand at their side, to avert any harm to them, and to protect them from all those who wish to prevent them from using their rights and their status.

Ladies and Gentlemen! There is one issue in the balance: Eretz Yisra'el. We hear the voices from Arab countries; we hear daily what 'Arafat and his entourage, as well as other Arab rulers, are saying. We read what is written and uttered in the United States and Europe. The man and the men whom you delegated to serve in the government disturb them! In their opinion, these men must be removed from the stage. I am asking you: Do the Likud members of the Israeli Government disturb the Likud members as well? I am asking: Why do 'Arafat and the Arab rulers demand, and why is there talk in the United States and in Europe on the need to remove Shamir and his colleagues from the political arena in Israel? It is unclear to us! It means nothing to us!

Incidentally, speaking of the United States, I must say I do not believe there is anyone who desires full cooperation with the United States more than I do. However, cooperation does not mean giving in to demands! [applause] There is room for disagreement and argument between friends. Naturally, everyone knows I am true to the peace plan I submitted to the Cabinet, and which the Cabinet endorsed on 14 May 1989. I have no doubt we will cooperate with the United States in implementing this plan, but only out of agreement, mutual respect, and mutual understanding. There is no other way. This way always has characterized and always will characterize the friendly and cooperative relations between Israel and the United States. I am confident we will enjoy many more years of fruitful, beneficial cooperation with the United States, which will serve the interests of both the United States and Israel.

My friends, hostile elements even in the United States are waiting for us to make a false move today. They are taking interest in this convention and expecting it to fail. Let us prove to both them and to friends who expect and pray for our success that we are determined and united, and that we know what is good for the Likud. Tonight we are watched by many people of Eretz Yisra'el from various camps, not just ours; among others, by the ultraorthodox and the tradition-observing Jews, who regard the Likud as a weighty factor in their struggle for the preservation of the State of Israel's traditional character [applause], who are now praying for our success

and our victory over all the genuine internal and other obstacles and difficulties. Let us not disappoint them!

At this difficult time, a time of emergency, I am appealing to the Central Committee members: There is but little time in which to determine the events of the future years. Therefore, I am asking each and every one: Please, bear in mind the party's great, sacred goal, and do not let instincts—genuine and sincere as they may be—or any other influences—important as they may be—interfere with your decision. There are times when one must choose—it is the essence of political life: choosing and deciding. We must opt for one of the alternatives. Friends! Today, the only choice is to vote in favor. There is no other way! [applause]

Maneuvers To Form Coalition Government Reported

Peres Warns of 'Surprises'

TA1904152790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The Labor Party Bureau meeting ended earlier this evening. The congregants heard a report on the status of the negotiations toward the establishment of a coalition. Shim'on Peres pointed out during the meeting he does not regret having taken action to dissolve the unity government. He claimed although it is very important to be the ruling party, at the same time, there are principles one must not abandon.

After the meeting, Shim'on Peres told our correspondent Shlomo Raz people should expect surprises in the negotiations toward establishing a coalition, but he refused to be more specific.

Verdiger Supports Alignment

TA1904160690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1557 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The dramatic development now is that an agreement has been signed between Knesset Member [MK] Avraham Verdiger and the Alignment. MK Verdiger decided, after all, to support the Alignment per the ruling of the Council of Torah Sages. He will permit Agudat Yisra'el to use his mandate to support the Alignment.

Here are some details from the agreement that was signed between MK Verdiger and the Alignment: In this term, no concessions of territory will be made; the unity government's basic guidelines will be honored; the existing settlements will not be harmed; and if, in three months, no additional parties—including religious parties—join the Alignment, in that case, MK Verdiger will reserve the right to have a change of heart and reconsider joining the Alignment camp.

These reports have just reached us. This gives the Alignment 60 votes.

Verdiger Comments on Decision

TA1904165890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1605 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] A short while ago, Knesset Member [MK] Verdiger announced he has signed an agreement with the Alignment. He again bowed to the authority of the Council of Torah Sages and has accepted its ruling. He, like his fellow members of Agudat Yisra'el, will support an Alignment-led government headed by Shim'on Peres.

Our correspondent Menahem Friedman is in Verdiger's home:

[Friedman] As Rabbi Verdiger is feeling unwell, we are forced to transmit this from the broadcasting van. As we said before, Rabbi Verdiger's decision is based on a most surprising document, a copy of which I now am holding. It is dated 19 April and signed by both Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin.

One of its clauses states that though the new government will follow the national unity government's peace plan, it is unacceptable that the territorial issue will be decided upon during the new government's term. It is agreed, however, that if it nevertheless is necessary to reach a decision that involves yielding territories in Eretz Yisra'el, the issue will be placed before the people in elections.

I am repeating the clauses of the accord because I feel they are crucial and important.

The second clause: The government that will be established will be committed to continue guaranteeing the well-being of all the Jewish settlements in Eretz Yisra'el, and will draw no distinction between them.

The third clause: If in three months Agudat Yisra'el still is the only religious party in the coalition, its members jointly or severally will be permitted to reconsider their participation in the coalition without the Alignment having the right to view this as a breach of the agreement.

Despite his illness, Rabbi Verdiger gave this brief statement:

[Begin recording] My statement this evening is as follows: As the date for a decision on the establishment of the government draws nearer, and following deliberations and clarifications with my colleagues, including consultations with the members of the Presidium of the Council of Torah Sages—the supreme authority for Agudat Yisra'el, of which I and my movement, Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el, are also part—and out of a sincere concern for the integrity of the Torah, the nation, and the land, I hereby announce an impressive development in which the Alignment has categorically adopted the moods expressed in the latest Council of Torah Sages meeting. During that session, many members raised the demand Agudat Yisra'el's support for an Alignment-led coalition be made firmly conditional upon guaranteeing

the well-being of all the settlements in Eretz Yisra'el, without distinction between one settlement or another. In addition to the clarification in this matter, this morning I received an unequivocal undertaking, which I regard as a supreme conscientious and practical achievement, in which the Alignment clearly pledged if it becomes necessary to reach decisions involving yielding territory in Eretz Yisra'el, the issue will be brought before the people for a vote.

It is no secret that in my latest moves, I acted in concert with the Lubavitcher rabbi's desires. As is well known, the rabbi's concerns are totally disconnected with politics; they stem solely from concern and love for Eretz Yisra'el.

There is no clearer document than the one addressed to me, cosigned by Shim'on Peres and Yitzhaq Rabin, which expresses so clearly.... [end recording; Friedman says broadcast is terminated "because the essence of his reasoning was given before"]

[Friedman] Let us only add that I asked the rabbi whether his colleague, Mizrahi, now will join him and also support an Alignment government. Rabbi Verdiger replied: I will be on Agudat Yisra'el's team that will try to persuade MK Mizrahi to return to the fold of the Council of Torah Sages, bow to its ruling, and support the Alignment government.

Likud Faction Leader Comments

TA1904170790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1605 GMT 19 Apr 90

[By political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] Here is the first reaction by the chairman of the Likud faction, Sara Doron, to whom we broke this news from Verdiger's home. Sara Doron, what is your reaction?

[Doron] I was surprised, dismayed, and hurt by the amazing decision of Knesset Member Verdiger, whom I know as a man who sympathizes with and is faithful to Eretz Yisra'el. I still hope this report is found to be erroneous, and that it is possible to correct this and bring him back into the national camp of those who preserve Eretz Yisra'el. I find it difficult to accept, or believe, this is his final word.

Labor Leader 'Overjoyed'

TA1904180090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1605 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Interview with Knesset Member (MK) Rafi Edri by party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz at the Labor Party headquarters in Tel Aviv—live]

[Text] [Raz] MK Edri, you also signed the agreement with MK Verdiger: Is MK Mizrahi also on the way to returning to Agudat Yisra'el's fold, to the best of your knowledge?

[Edri] First of all, I am overjoyed with MK Verdiger's announcement. I always had faith in his integrity and honesty and believed in his course. Furthermore, he is a veteran MK and parliamentarian whom everyone—outside Israel, too—knows as a man who honors his word. I believed if the proper and best way was found, he certainly would respect the ruling of the Council of Torah Sages, according to his erstwhile declarations.

As to your question, and I am not, God forbid, speaking for the venerable Rabbi Mizrahi; I am convinced he can speak for himself. It seems to me, however, that this document is an opening for something that could satisfy all the parties and which could bring about implementation of the agreement signed with Agudat Yisra'el and the honoring of the Council of Torah Sages' decision.

We went ahead with this move with clean hands. We did not topple the government; the one who did that was...

[Raz, interrupting] MK Edri, we are familiar with this argument, but...

[Edri, interrupting] The public may have forgotten.

[Raz] No, no, the public has not forgotten; the public can hardly forget, as developments occur so swiftly.

[Edri] Let it be noted for the record just who fired whom and who brought about the dissolution of the government.

[Raz] MK Edri, the question is whether you currently are maintaining contacts of any sort with MK Mizrahi of Agudat Yisra'el.

[Edri] I think we went with clean hands and are continuing to observe the correct, quiet way.

[Raz] Undoubtedly. But the question is whether you are in touch with MK Mizrahi.

[Edri] I do not represent MK Rabbi Mizrahi; nor do I represent Rabbi Verdiger. It is true I submitted the document and I talked with Rabbi Verdiger. I hope things as we noted them and as Rabbi Verdiger stated them to the media will be manifested in Agudat Yisra'el, that the party will be united, and we will proceed to honor the agreement, as signed.

[Raz] With all the satisfaction you derive from MK Verdiger's announcement, you still have not crossed the 60 vote line?

[Edri] I think no one should rush to conclusions. You always have asked me about optimism, and I told you I was and remain optimistic.

[Raz] Beyond this response, it seems to me there is every reason to rush, because the additional 15 days [to form a government] will be up soon. The question is whether you have broken the 60-member mark you need. Sixty votes will be sufficient for Yitzhaq Shamir to preserve his government, but Shim'on Peres needs at least 61.

[Edri] As you know, Mr. Shamir does not have 60 MK's. Ten MK's declared they would not join a narrow-based government with Mr. Shamir. Even the extreme right is not in Mr. Shamir's pocket. We do not declare anyone is in our pocket. We conduct negotiations, we talk to parties and will pursue our path. I believe that path is right and hope next week there will be a good government, which this nation deserves.

[Raz] MK Edri, tomorrow what you call a crucial meeting will be conducted with Rabbi 'Ovadya Yosef. What will SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] do, to the best of your knowledge?

[Edri] The meeting with the honorable Rabbi Yosef is most important because his position is clear and he stated it in public. He prefers peace and said very clear things. He also said things from the heart and struck the same chord in our hearts. I hope this will be manifest, along the same vein as his move. Let us not forget that without SHAS, the government would not have fallen. This says something about the future. Yet I leave the decision to Rabbi Yosef; I cannot presume to answer for him.

[Raz] Thank you.

MK's of Other Parties Comment

TA1904192890 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1900 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Knesset Member [MK] Yosi Sarid of the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] says his party has no problem with the Alignment's agreement with MK Verdiger. He told our correspondent Shlomo Raz the CRM would support a government led by Shim'on Peres.

The NRP's [National Religious Party] secretary, Yitzhak Levi, said his party would not lend its hand to a narrow-based government. He explained he rules out joining a government led by the Labor Party, even if it enjoys the support of 90 MK's.

Tzomet Chairman MK Refa'el Eytan attacked Verdiger's announcement and said he would demand the dissolution of the Knesset. He called on the Likud and the Alignment to cut the defectors down to their proper size by effecting electoral reform.

Likud Ratifies Moda'i Accord

TA1904221990 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
2207 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Announcement by Likud Central Committee Chairman Ari'el Sharon at Binyaney Ha'uma in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] I would like to announce the results of the vote count. The proposal passed with the relative majority of 70.49 percent; 1,111 members, who make up 70.49 percent, voted in favor of the proposal; 453 members—28.74 percent—voted against; 12 members—0.76 percent—abstained. The total number of voting members

was 1,576. Thus, the Central Committee has ratified the agreement with the Moda'i faction.

The Central Committee convention is hereby closed.

Olmert on Likud Vote Results

TA1904223690 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
2212 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Interview with Minister Ehud Olmert by political affairs correspondent Arye Golan at Binyaney Ha'uma in Jerusalem—live]

[Text] [Golan] Minister Olmert, will the majority attained tonight suffice to ratify the agreement with Minister Moda'i?

[Olmert] Absolutely. The proposal required a relative majority, that is, at least 66.6 percent, while the majority it attained was far beyond that.

Regarding these results, I would like to note two things: First of all, the number of voters was many more than 50 percent of the Central Committee members. Out of these, more than 70 percent supported the proposal. I think this definitely is an impressive outcome. The proposal was not simple, and the development was difficult, too. I think, however, that we have achieved the result we hoped for. The significance of this is that the agreement the Likud ministers, headed by the prime minister, signed was ratified and the commitment remains valid. After this, we will continue our progress in the political sphere.

[Golan] Thank you very much, Minister Ehud Olmert.

Attack Disrupts Agudat Yisra'el Ceremony; 9 Hurt

TA1904205890 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
2000 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Tear gas canisters were hurled at an Agudat Yisra'el ceremony in Bene Beraq this evening. They were tossed from the roof of an adjacent building. Nine people were injured, of whom eight sustained slight injuries from gas inhalation and one is in somewhat more serious condition, having been crushed when the conferees tried to flee the place.

The ceremony, marking the completion of the study of the Mishnah, was attended by members of the Council of Torah Sages, who had agreed in advance no political speeches would be made.

IDF Spokesman: Jibril Bases Hit in Air Raid

TA1904132490 *Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew*
1300 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman has said that in the raid carried out today in the vicinity of al-Na'imah, north of al-Damur, the Air Force hit targets

belonging to Ahmad Jibril's organization. The targets had been used for preparing and launching terrorist attacks.

All our planes returned safely to base.

Injuries, Curfews Reported in Territories 19 Apr

TA2004081390 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
20 Apr 90 p A3

[By Eytan Rabin and Yizhar Be'er]

[Text] Yusra Bal'isha, 45, lost her eye yesterday from a rubber bullet shot in clashes in the al-Shati' refugee camp. A representative of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman's office in the Southern Command reported yesterday three women from al-Shati' who participated in riots were hurt. He confirmed one had lost her eye.

Palestinian sources reported nine al-Shati' residents were injured in clashes with IDF units. They also reported incidents throughout the Gaza Strip, in the course of which 11 people were hurt, including the nine in al-Shati'.

The IDF imposed a curfew on the Khan Yunus refugee camp yesterday.

Palestinian sources reported two injuries in the Balatah refugee camp in Naublus and another in the al-Jalazun refugee camp. Army sources did not report any casualties.

The curfew on the villages of 'Anabta in the Tulkarm area and 'Awarta in the Nabulus area continued for the sixth consecutive day yesterday. The curfew on the villages of Hablah and Bayt Surik remains in effect. A sit-down strike was held in Nabulus yesterday to demand the release of the Qezi'ot inmates and to protest the partial closure of Bayt Furik, which has been in force for 50 days.

Palestinian 'Ambassador' on 'Arafat's Amman Talks

*JN1904151990 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 19 Apr 90*

[Text] Jordanian-Palestinian talks concluded in Amman last night. Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Amman at dawn today after holding talks with His Majesty King Husayn and Prime Minister Mudar Badran on bilateral ties and the Arab state of affairs. Ladies and gentlemen, Palestinian ambassador in Amman al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim spoke to our correspondent Jawad al-'Umari on the outcome of 'Arafat's Amman talks. He said:

[Begin 'Abd-al-Rahim recording] There is no doubt the two important issues discussed during the talks were Jordanian-Palestinian ties and the Arab state of affairs in view of Israeli threats to launch an aggression against Iraq and Jordan, and also in light of the dangers inherent in the Jewish immigration to Palestine, and the resulting dangers posed to pan-Arab security by this immigration. On the bilateral level, the views were identical. The two sides agreed to reactivate the existing institutions and create new institutions to help bolster the special relationship between Jordan and Palestine on the one hand, and between the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples on the other. I am here referring to this historic, special relationship, which we want to remain firm, strong, and based on firm foundations in the future—that is, after the establishment of the Palestinian state.

We have agreed on a host of measures. As a matter of fact, the directives of both His Majesty King Husayn and brother Yasir 'Arafat had a great effect that allowed us to reach these positive results on the bilateral level. This effect was manifested in the formation of a higher committee and specialized committees to resolve all problems and draw up future plans to enhance Jordanian-Palestinian ties.

On the Arab level, there definitely is an important issue; that is, calling for an Arab summit in Baghdad—not only to show solidarity with Iraq in its confrontation of the Israeli threats and the ferocious Western campaign to tarnish Iraq's image because it possesses chemical weapons—overlooking the fact that Israel possesses more than 240 nuclear warheads—but also to affirm that this nation is capable of facing challenges at a time when the world is witnessing rapid changes that require us to put forth serious efforts and produce joint Arab action. The call for holding an Arab summit in Baghdad will be made to the Arab League. The positions of Arab states on the issue will be probed. I believe the stands of both Jordan and the state of Palestine, that is, the PLO, are identical.

[Begin al-'Umari recording] On the ideas proposed on a future Jordanian-Palestinian relationship, including a confederation between the two sides, 'Abd-al-Rahim said:

['Abd-al-Rahim] We have not raised this issue. We discussed the issue of laying down the basis for future ties. We also discussed ways of enhancing these ties at present, at a time when Palestine and Jordan are being exposed to serious dangers inherent in the Jewish immigration to Palestine. We within the PLO believe these confederal ties are to be decided by the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples after the establishment of a Palestinian state. [end recording]

Editorial Praises Iraq's 'Defense' of Arab States

*JN1904162090 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic
19 Apr 90 second edition pp 1, 15*

[Editorial: "Thanks, Iraq"]

[Text] We do not have to tell you that you have promised and then kept your promise; for you have stationed your troops for eight years of struggle and patience in defense of the eastern front and the Arab order. This fact surely belies any claim by any party to the contrary.

The deployment of Iraqi forces all over the Arab sky and the warning to any state against committing an aggression on any Arab country should have been made clear to the world a long time ago, had it not been for Arab incapability and inaction.

Since the Arab nation's defeat in 1948, we have been groping in the darkness searching for an Arab country capable of facing Israel's arrogance and the collusion of superpowers allied with it who have turned the Arab arena into a place for the "free world's" statements on their interests in this arena.

As citizens, we have been suffering deep anguish, to the extent our feelings of submissive surrender overshadowed our days and nights until the unequivocal Iraqi position straightened our path and resuscitated the hope of regaining our nation's past glories. We hope every Arab will become convinced the Arab no longer will be humiliated or degraded, as long as there is an Arab state capable of opposing humiliation and degradation.

The developments that took place in the East European countries left these peoples like herds of cattle, unaware of what they want or where to go. Consequently, Israel has capitalized on these developments and benefited from the heap of U.S. pressures, which had been piling up over the years, on the Soviet Union to open its doors to the emigration of Soviet and East European Jews. This encouraged Shamir to talk about a Greater Israel. If this is what happened here and there, what happened in our region has reconnected the Arab past and present and reminded the Arabs of the heroism of their forefathers, which illuminated the region with the message of Islam.

Greetings to Saddam Husayn, his Army, and his people, who led our Arab nation out of the arena of fear to the fields of manliness and achievements.

U.S., Iran, Hizballah Hostage Agreement Alleged*JN1904182090 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1710 GMT 19 Apr 90*

[Text] A high-ranking Palestinian source who accompanied Yasir 'Arafat during his recent visit to Amman affirmed to AFP today an agreement to release the U.S. hostages in Lebanon was reached in Damascus yesterday during a meeting among Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli, one of Hizballah leaders in Lebanon; Mahmud Rafsanjani, the Iranian president's brother; and a U.S. security mission. More in the following report from Randah Habib in Amman:

[Begin Randah Habib recording] The pro-Iran Hizballah has pledged to release shortly a number of American and Western hostages following a meeting held in Damascus yesterday between a U.S. security mission and a delegation that included Shaykh al-Tufayli, a Hizballah leader, and Mahmud Rafsanjani, the Iranian president's brother. Reporting this to us today, a high-ranking Palestinian source who accompanied PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat during his recent visit to Amman, said that in exchange an agreement was reached to release several of the leaders of the Islamic Resistance Movement-Hamas from Israeli jails, led by Hamas Leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin. The source estimated 170 Hamas detainees are in Israeli jails.

In conclusion, the source said the Damascus meeting is the third in a series of meetings and that two other meetings preceded it on 11 and 12 April. [end recording]

Now we go to Damascus to learn Syria's reaction to this story and what is being said there about the issue of releasing a U.S. hostage. From Damascus, Louis Faris reports:

[Begin Faris recording] A U.S. hostage being detained in Lebanon is expected to be released tomorrow. He is Jesse Turner, a teacher at the American University of Beirut, who was kidnapped with two colleagues on 24 January 1987.

Diplomatic sources in Damascus consider Turner's release to be the fruit of joint Syrian-Iranian efforts to release all the detained hostages in Lebanon. Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' visited Tehran last month and conveyed a message to Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the Iranian leadership from President Hafiz al-Asad, affirming the need to end the hostage issue.

U.S. Ambassador Edward Djerejian and the official in charge of the Lebanese issue, who was participating in a diplomatic meeting in Lebanon, rushed back to Damascus today. As for the request of the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine that John Kelly, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, come to the Syrian capital, the U.S. Administration has so far not given any indication it will meet this request.

In another development, informed Syrian sources here have denied Amman reports citing a Palestinian official. These sources denied a meeting was conducted in Damascus between any U.S. side on the one hand and Hizballah or Iranian officials on the other. Our sources considered the dissemination of such reports is aimed at disturbing the joint Syrian-Iranian efforts to release all the hostages. [end recording]

Islamic Jihad Postpones Release of U.S. Hostage*NC1904203790 Paris AFP in English 2036 GMT
19 Apr 90*

[Excerpts] Beirut, April 19 (AFP)—The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP) said Thursday it was postponing the release of one of its three U.S. hostages until further notice because of Washington's "lack of cooperation." The underground group, in a statement received by a Western news agency in west Beirut, reiterated its demand for U.S. State Department official John Kelly to travel to Damascus as part of arrangements for a hostage release. "All the preparations were in progress for the release, but Mr. Kelly's lack of cooperation has interrupted the operation and forced us to postpone it until the situation becomes clearer," the statement said.

The IJLP announced Wednesday it would free within 48 hours one of the three U.S. hostages it has held since January 1987—Beirut University College teachers Jesse Turner, 42, Alann Steen, 50, and Robert Polhill, 55. Describing its decision as a "goodwill gesture" in response to calls by Iran, it asked Mr. Kelly, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, to go to Damascus to prepare the release. [passage omitted]

In Thursday's statement, the IJLP said it wanted the Syrian intelligence chief in Lebanon, General Ghazi Kan'an "to go to Beirut to close this affair the moment that Mr. Kelly arrives in Damascus." The group Thursday also issued "a last warning" to "states that help Soviet Jews emigrate to Israel." Last month it had threatened to attack airlines and airports used to transport the Soviet emigres to Israel. The statement, handwritten in Arabic, was authenticated by a colour snapshot showing Mr. Polhill, bearded and bespectacled, wearing a blue sweater. [passage omitted]

RFL Notes Postponement of 'Jesse Turner' Release*NC1904205690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 2050 GMT 19 Apr 90*

[Text] The Islamic Jihad organization has postponed the release of U.S. hostage Jesse Turner after having pledged to release him by tomorrow, Friday, because the United States has not responded to the sign of good will shown by the organization, according to a statement it issued tonight. A photo of one of the U.S. hostages was delivered with the statement.

Amal Movement Leader: Release Offer 'Still On'

NC2004115090 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1144 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] It seems the issue of the American hostages is on its way to a solution. Today, Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, said the Islamic Jihad Organization will release a U.S. hostage in fulfillment of its promise, despite the postponement it announced yesterday.

In a telephone interview with REUTER, al-Musawi said the kidnappers are serious in their offer and that this offer is still on and has not been annulled. He added: The Americans should not behave arrogantly and waste this chance; they have to make a positive step in this direction.

Waite 'Will Be Released by End of Next Week'

LD2004164190 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1610 GMT
20 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Beirut 20 Apr KUNA—A Lebanese magazine said today that activity is underway for the release of two and not one Western hostages. The weekly AL-SHIRA' says that [word indistinct] (?Jesse Turner) and British Bishop Terry Waite will be released by the end of next week at the latest. [passage omitted]

Israeli Air Raid on Front's Positions Reported

One Hurt; Flyovers Continue

NC1904104290 Beirut Voice of National Resistance
in Arabic 1030 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] According to a preliminary estimate of the victims of today's Israeli air raid, one female citizen was wounded and taken to the hospital.

Israeli warplanes raided positions held by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in the al-Na'imah hills at 1050 today. The enemy planes are still flying over the area and are drawing anti-aircraft fire. The necessary measures have been taken lest fresh raids should be launched.

Second Raid on Al-Na'imah

NC1904110290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1045 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Israeli warplanes carried out a second raid against a base of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in the Al-Na'imah area at about 1230 today. The first raid left two people dead, one of them a Palestinian member of the front.

Following the first raid, the Israeli aircraft continued to fly over the area, drawing anti-aircraft fire. A state of maximum alert was declared among the Palestinians.

PFLP-GC Reports Attack

NC1904121990 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] A formation of four enemy aircraft raided the al-Na'imah area at 1050. There was another raid on the al-Na'imah hills and 'Aramun at approximately 1230. Security sources said anti-aircraft fire was directed at the raiding planes, which dropped thermal balloons. The sources added ambulances and civil defense vehicles rushed to the scene as soon as the raid took place and evacuated two slightly wounded persons.

A source in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] has stated four aircraft carried out the first raid. Two of these planes dropped four rockets near the Martyr Abu-Muhammad Kayil center. The source added two rockets exploded near the center and the other two exploded by the road near the center. The source said there were no casualties.

Notes 'Light Material Damage'

JN1904150690 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian
Arab Radio in Arabic 1409 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Brother strugglers, we have just received the following:

Commenting on the raids the Zionist enemy planes launched on positions of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], a PFLP spokesman has stated the following:

While our Front is confronting plots to liquidate the Palestinian cause, the Zionist enemy—supported by the United States—is trying to influence the Front's firm positions by exercising continuous pressure on it in the security, military, and political fields. At 1050 this morning, an enemy formation of warplanes raided our positions in al-Na'imah area. The enemy planes released their heavy missiles over the area without being able to realize their aims.

At 1230, the enemy planes raided the same positions again and released dozens of heavy missiles.

As a result of the heroic resistance of our ground defenses, and because of our impregnable fortifications, the losses were confined to some light material damage.

The military spokesman said: We in the PFLP-GC, while facing U.S. pressures and successive Zionist attacks, affirm the Front is proceeding with pride and great willpower to confront the plots against our people and cause. The Front will continue its armed struggle and to confront the plots of betrayal and capitulation. The pressures and plots will not affect our positions. Revolution until the liberation of land and man.

Iranian Radio, Television Office Attacked

LD1904183290 *Tehran Television Service in Persian*
1700 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran's radio and television office in Beirut came under attack during last night and today. According to the Central News Unit report, four armed men attacked the office last night, trying to enter it, but were unsuccessful.

Army Positions Under Fire; Explosion in al-Nab'ah

NC1904114890 *(Clandestine) The Lebanese Radio*
in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The army positions in Primo and al-Tibbiyah areas are still coming under intermittent mortar fire from the positions held by Ja'ja's gunmen in al-Ashrafiyah.

[Words indistinct] directed by the gunmen at al-Dikwanah and adjacent areas from inside Sinn al-Fil injured citizen Yusuf Raji Lahhud.

It is worth noting army units have been detonating unexploded shells in the area of Suq al-Gharb since 1200.

In another development, the results of the explosion that occurred near the Mar Dumit church in al-Nab'ah this morning are not yet been known because of the tight security cordon Ja'ja's gunmen have thrown around the area.

'Awn Forces Resume Shelling Beirut, Kasrawan

NC1904201890 *(Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon*
in Arabic 1945 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] 'Awn's gunmen resumed shelling the residential neighborhoods on the Kasrawan coast at 2115 today. The same area was the target of several shells in the afternoon. Throughout the day and until the evening hours shells fired by 'Awn's positions fell on Mazra'at Kafr Dhibyan, Bakish, and Bqa'tuta. In Beirut, 'Awn's gunmen fired rockets at Hayy al-Siryan and the Hotel Dieu areas.

Intermittent sniper fire continues to be directed at Lebanese Forces positions and residential areas along the newly created combat lines in Beirut and Kasrawan.

The sniper fire of 'Awn's gunmen today caused the martyrdom of a Lebanese Forces member. Citizens Georgette Francis and Pauline Farah were wounded in the Hotel Dieu area.

Casualties Reported in Amal, Hizballah Clash

NC2004121890 *Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic*
1130 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Clashes between the Amal Movement and Hizballah resumed in Iqlim al-Tuffah this morning.

Fierce fighting involving automatic weapons, rockets, and artillery raged between the two factions last night. Shells hit villages far from the combat lines. Five people were killed and seven others wounded.

In today's shelling of the villages of Sarba, Kafr Hatta, Humin, and Jarju', three citizens were injured and several buildings were damaged.

The Amal Movement has announced the death of five of its members in the shelling directed at its positions in Humin al-Fawqa last night. They are: Ahmad Hasan Humani, Safi Mahmud 'Ayyash, 'Abdallah Harb, 'Imad 'Ali Fahs, and Majid 'Abdallah. [passage omitted]

Amal, Hizballah Sources on Iqlim al-Tuffah Clashes

NC1904162990 *Beirut Voice of National Resistance*
in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Calm prevails in the various areas of the Southern Suburb and West Beirut, which have been the scene of clashes between Amal and Hizballah forces for the past two days. The areas of 'Abd- al-'Aziz Street, the vicinity of the Arab Bank, and the Piccadilly locality in al-Hamra' were the scene of fighting between the two groups this morning, during which Amal members Husayn Hamiyah and Ahmad Harb were killed. Citizen Aminah al-Mir also died in the fighting.

The Amal Movement's Beirut Command issued a statement this afternoon saying Hizballah elements ambushed and assassinated Amal members Hamiyah and Harb in the Ra's Bayrut district near the St. Peter and St. Paul Church at dawn today. The statement pointed out that this escalation preceded a protest which had been planned by Iqlim al-Tuffah residents and said the escalation was an attempt to forestall this protest. The statement asked the Lebanese Government and officials in charge of the capital's security to put an end to the acts of those whom the statement termed gangs who disregard the people's security, dignity, and property. The statement said the proposed security plan for Beirut is the best way to resolve the existing situation.

Meanwhile, violent clashes with machine guns and rockets took place on Iqlim al-Tuffah's combat lines between Amal and Hizballah this afternoon. An Amal military source accused Hizballah of provoking the fighting in Iqlim al-Tuffah and bombarding the villages of Sarba, Jarju', 'Anqun, and Kafr Hatta with 120-mm artillery and 107-mm rockets. The source said the shelling injured three citizens, including a member of the 'Assaf family. They were transferred to the 'Ala'-al-Din Hospital in al-Sarafand.

An Hizballah media source denied there were shelling operations this afternoon, and said 'Ayn Qana was shelled from positions in Sarba and Kafr Milki and Jurnaya from Kafr Hatta this morning.

Afghanistan

Politburo Meets, Discusses Economic Situation

LD2004090490 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 19, BAKHTAR—The Politburo session of the Central Committee [CC] of the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] went into session today. The Politburo session discussed the country's economic position during the last year ended in March 20, 1990 and pointed out that the city and provincial party committees of the PDPA are assigned to conduct organisational and educational work for mobilizing the workers of state and private bodies for the execution of the socio-economic development plan of the country and saving expenditures.

Similarly, the Politburo of the PDPA CC has dutified the party committees and party primary organisations of the PDPA to help effectively in the execution of the state plan and to intensify the level of accountability of the responsible party members for the serious observance of financial state and planning discipline. It was also noted that work effectiveness among different categories particularly among enlightened women should be increased and the women irrespective of their political belonging should realise the Women's Council as the basic source of their private interests. The members of the PDPA should perform more serious and effective work for the ever-further expansion of political pluralism and that of the realisation of the policy of national reconciliation.

The Politburo session of the PDPA CC also studied and discussed a number of important local, party and national problems and made decisions upon them.

Najibullah Receives North Zone Leaders 19 April

LD2004092690 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0431 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 19, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan, today received clergymen, national traders tribal chieftains and commanders of some tribal battalions of the North Zone who had come to Kabul to visit Fazlul Haq Khaleqyar, minister without portfolio, injured in a recent terroristic attack in Herat.

During the meeting, President Najibullah spoke on development of political-military situation in the country, implementation of the national reconciliation policy and foreign interferences and interventions in Afghanistan.

Then representatives of the North Zone while strongly condemning the event in Herat [that] resulted in killing a number of peace supporters and injuring Fazlul Haq Khaliqyar and a number of other of our compatriots prepared their full readiness for implementation of national reconciliation policy in Herat.

Mujahidin Kill 14, Injure 12 in Lowgar Province

BK2004084590 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] In Afghanistan, mujahidin in an operation against the Kabul regime forces are reported to have killed 14 soldiers and injured 12 others in (Saudagar Jang Rah) area of Lowgar Province. A MIDIA [Media Information Department of Islamic Afghanistan] report said five officers and 12 soldiers of the regime's forces surrendered to mujahidin during their attack in west of (Sakawa) desert 18 km south of Kabul.

Provincial Armed Forces Engaged in Recent Clashes

LD2004090190 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Kabul, April 19, BAKHTAR—In the past four days, one hundred and thirty enemies were either killed or wounded in a counter attack carried out by the detachments of the Armed Forces based in the provinces of Paktia, Nangarhar and Qandahar, reports BAKHTAR military correspondent.

Meanwhile, three personnel of the Armed Forces were also killed and another nine including two civilians injured by the operations during the same period.

In the past four days, the Pakistani-backed armed extremists by using heavy weapons fired on a number of security posts in Khowst Grand District, Paktia Province, as a result of which one personnel of the Armed Forces was killed and nine injured including two civilians. The detachments of the Armed Forces responded the attack as a result of which 62 persons from the joint forces of the enemy were either killed or wounded.

Similarly, the joint forces of the enemy attacked on the security forces of Nangarhar garrison with heavy weapons in the past four days as a result of which one soldier was killed and another three injured. Meanwhile, the detachments of the Armed Forces in Nangarhar Province attacked on the enemy killing or wounding forty three persons.

In Qandahar Province, thirty one enemies were either killed or wounded in a counter-attack carried out by the detachments of the Armed Forces in the past four days. Meanwhile, one personnel of the Armed Forces and four civilians [were] injured in the operation.

A large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from the enemy by the Armed Forces during the operations.

Ambush Operation Carried Out in Faryab Province

LD2004093290 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] State Security personnel in Faryab Province, while carrying out an ambush operation in the Pash-tunkot district of this province, crushed a number of

Pakistani-backed extremists. The military section of the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reported that during this ambush Sofi Samad, a ringleader attached to the Rabbani group, was gunned down with two of his guards. The State Security personnel also seized four light machine guns.

India

Outlaw Leader, 32 Kashmir 'Subversives' Arrested

BK1904161290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, 33 subversives, including the chief of the outlawed Jammu and Kashmir Jamaat-i-Islami, Hakeem Ghulam Nabi, were arrested today in different parts of the valley. The house-to-house search by the security forces to nab the subversives continued with encouraging results. Three hundred and thirty antinationals have been arrested so far. The security forces recovered one AK-47 rifle and three mines from the five-kilometer belt along the border in the Kashmir Valley from where large quantities of ammunition were recovered yesterday.

Meanwhile, curfew was relaxed for varying periods in Srinagar City and other towns. No untoward incident has been reported from anywhere during the relaxation period. The security forces have launched a massive search for the killers of the former state minister, Sheikh Abdul Jabbar, who was killed by unidentified gunmen in Srinagar last night.

Kashmir Curfew Eased for Ramadan Services 20 Apr

BK2004132690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1317 GMT
20 Apr 90

[Text] Jammu, India, April 20 (AFP)—A curfew in violence-hit Kashmir Valley in north India was eased for five hours as authorities bowed to pressure to allow Muslims to freely attend mosques on the last Friday of the fasting month [20 April]. A government spokesman said the curfew, in force for 15 straight days, was lifted for five hours during the day for majority Muslims in the region to celebrate Jamut-ul-vidha, the last Friday of the fasting month.

A top Muslim religious leader, Mirwaiz Moulavi Farooq, Wednesday [18 April] threatened that thousands could defy the curfew and pour into streets if people were not allowed to attend the special Friday prayers.

In a move seen here as a direct response to the threat, the authorities announced the five-hour relaxation in the summer capital of Srinagar and 25 other towns in the valley, the longest break since it was first imposed 15 days ago, but continued a blanket ban on vehicular traffic. By noon officials had reported no "untoward" incidents in the valley. Public and private transport stayed off the streets as part of the government's drive

against Muslim militants leading a violent campaign for independence from the Indian union.

Intelligence sources here said reports indicated that the banned Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) was planning to expand their activities from Srinagar to other regions of the state in an effort to take the pressure off them in Srinagar. Srinagar has been the hub of the militant-led violence since a step-up in attacks against the Indian Government in the state early this year. During this time more than 400 people have died, including 27 Indian paramilitary police.

Indian security forces, assisted by women troopers, continued an intensive search operation for Muslim militants whom New Delhi charges have been trained by Pakistan. Border patrols arrested 17 "Pakistan-trained Kashmiri Muslim militants" and their guides in overnight operations in the Kupwara border region, raising to 135 the total arrests of people attempting to cross to the Pakistani side of the border during the crackdown, the spokesman said. He said 29 had been killed so far.

The intelligence reports also indicated that militants were trying to spark violence here in Jammu, the winter capital of the state, which has so far been relatively unaffected by the secessionist campaign, and in the Kargil Mountain region dominated by Shia Muslims. The majority of Kashmir's Muslims are Sunni.

Meanwhile officials and politicians in the picturesque, predominantly Buddhist Ladakh region bordering both Pakistan and China have asked the central government to step up security to make it safe for tourists to visit the area this summer.

A former minister of state, P. Namgial of Ladakh, said "provocative hate-India" posters had recently been put up in the region but that police had pulled them down without any resistance. He said he feared militants could set off a wave of violence killing the lucrative tourist industry. He estimated damage to property in violence during the last tourist season at nearly three million dollars. Normal life in Ladakh has been peaceful in comparison to the Kashmir Valley which has been virtually paralyzed by the secessionist violence.

New Delhi accuses Islamabad of aiding and training the Muslim militants. Pakistan denies the charge, but publicly supports the Kashmiri Muslim cause.

Prime Minister Congratulates Nepalese Counterpart

BK1904162290 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] India has reiterated its desire to restore the age-old friendly relationship with Nepal based on mutual trust and confidence. In a congratulatory message to Mr. K.P. Bhattarai, on his assumption of office as prime minister of Nepal, the prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, said India desires most sincerely to maintain the traditional relationship with Nepal in its entirety

and to deepen and strengthen it in all areas. Mr. V.P. Singh said under a united leadership, the people of Nepal have made significant gains in their struggle to achieve a democratic system of governance. He expressed the hope that under the leadership of Mr. Bhattarai, the people of Nepal will move forward toward a future of peace and progress.

Mr. Bhattarai was sworn in as the prime minister of Nepal by King Birendra this morning.

Iran

Iranian Editor: 'All Hostages' To Be Freed Soon

PM1904100690 London BBC Television Network
in English 2130 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Interview with TEHRAN TIMES editor Irfan Parviz in Tehran by news presenter Jeremy Paxman in London on 18 April on BBC 2 "Newsnight"—recorded]

[Text] [Paxman] Well, earlier this evening I spoke by telephone to Irfan Parviz, editor of the TEHRAN TIMES, the English language newspaper in Iran. It was back at the beginning of March that Iran's president, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, appealed to Lebanese groups holding Western hostages to let them go for humanitarian reasons. I asked Mr. Parviz what caused those groups to make this announcement now.

[Parviz] You should understand one thing: This month—the entire month of Ramadan [28 March-26 April] —is very important for the Muslim nations throughout the world, and now Friday is coming. That is the last Friday of this month [20 April], which is more important than other days of Ramadan, so on these occasions Muslims usually do something good to others, and this they do according to the instructions of God.

[Paxman] What's the significance of it being an American hostage?

[Parviz] This is the beginning. I can tell you. It's not, it's not the end, it's the beginning, and maybe other hostages will also be released.

[Paxman] How soon?

[Parviz] Well, I tell you that the matter is very complicated, so you can't pinpoint, you can't fix up a deadline for that. But I'm sure, I'm positive that all hostages will be released—and very soon.

[Paxman] So are we talking about days, or weeks, or months?

[Parviz] I can't say in days, or months, or weeks, but you'll see, you will see that similar good news you will receive.

[Paxman] Mr. Parviz, the implication of what you are saying is that there are negotiations going on. Is that true?

[Parviz] I... I didn't say that negotiations are going on, and I don't know, and as far as I know, there are no negotiations going on.

[Paxman] Why is it that Islamic Jihad has asked for the U.S. assistant secretary of state, John Kelly, to go to Damascus, then?

[Parviz] Well, I don't know about that, and I can't comment on that report, but I know that before Friday one hostage will be released.

[Paxman] They included a photograph of Jesse Turner, who was an academic at the university, didn't they? Is that the man you understand will be released?

[Parviz] Yeah, I think so, because they have already announced his name.

[Paxman] So do you think we can expect the release of the British hostages soon, then, as well?

[Parviz] Yes, because the appeal was made for all the hostages, not for any particular country or any particular nation.

[Paxman] And it will be just a gesture without any expectation of anything in return?

[Parviz] I think so, because Iranian officials several times have made this very clear that they don't want any ransom, so this is what I know.

Larijani Analyzes U.S., Israeli Pressure on Iraq

LD1904194990 Tehran IRNA in English 1654 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—A number of U.S. senators who had visited Iraq recently, have announced in an interview that Saddam [Husayn] "is a war maniac".

Noting the above in his weekly column in the Persian daily ETTELA'AT, advisor to the foreign minister Mohammad Javad Larijani said the remark was not surprising for the Iranian nation, since Saddam has committed countless of horrible crimes during his eight-year war against Iran.

"But how come that the U.S. senators realized the issue so late, and how come they reached this conclusion during their talks with the ruler of a country in peace time?" Larijani questioned.

Noting that "a single hint is enough for the wise", Larijani quoted the senators as reasoning that "Saddam would never accept to sit at the negotiation table with Israel under the present circumstances?". [punctuation as received]

The current pressure of the U.S. and Israel on Iraq is not aimed at overthrowing the Saddam regime, or undermining his power, since Iraq has proved that it can offer

the best service to the U.S. and Israel. The pressures are rather aimed at further "milking" of his regime.

The U.S. and the Soviet Union intend to settle the issue of the occupied Palestine in the wake of the current atmosphere of "resolving regional crises" which looms in the world. "The objective is probably for Israel to get rid of the internal and external crises," Larijani pointed out.

He argued that in the future multi-polar world, it is not clear whether defending Israel would be economical as it was before. The U.S. and Soviet leaders have included this in the agenda of their future talks, "and show a gesture of being serious in settling the issue once and for ever."

There is however no apparent discussion on the rights of the Palestinians, the place of their lodging and their right for establishment of an independent state, and if there is any, it has not been agreed upon.

The only case on which (the two powers) have agreed presently, is to enter Arabs and specially Syria into direct talks and ultimately into a peace accord with Israel, "and they could not find any other figure more appropriate than Saddam."

But, Larijani continued, Saddam should reveal its ties with Israel and make "shamefaced" countries of the Arab world to get rid of their shame, and force Syria through pressure and sanction to enter into direct peace talks with Israel.

Saddam apparently fears this measure and therefore showed a slight resistance, but the result is clear because the way of resistance reveals, and prepares the ground for "the submission".

Larijani believed that this apparent resistance is part of the scenario itself, because a Saddam with some "sham anti-Zionist gesture" is more beneficial. "In other words, not only the U.S., the West and Israel will not cut their aids to the Iraqi regime, but the plan is that Saddam would further cooperate with Israel more openly in the future, and bear the standard of the eventual compromise with Israel."

One element is able to foil this plot, and that is the vigilance of the Muslims and particularly Islamic movements in the Arab world. "Islamic Iran should realise its status in this respect," Larijani concluded.

Paper on U.S., UN Ties With 'Baghdad Maniac'
NC1904110790 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 11 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Baghdad Offers Affront to U.N."]

[Text] An Iraqi diplomat at the United Nations has been expelled from the U.S. on charges of involvement in terrorist activities, including assassination of opponents of the Baghdad government.

The name of the expelled Iraqi diplomat has not been officially announced but U.N. sources have identified him as Hamid al-'Amiri, first secretary at Iraq's U.N. mission. The 35-year-old al-'Amiri was in charge of intelligence activities at Iraq's U.N. mission and was the man behind the terrorist activities in the U.S.

A State Department spokeswoman said the Iraqi diplomat was expelled last Thursday [5 April] in connection with the California indictment of a former driver at Iraq's U.N. mission, who was offered 50,000 dollars to take part in a plot to murder two opponents of the Iraqi regime.

In retaliation the Iraqi government expelled a U.S. diplomat from Baghdad Monday [9 April]. An Asian diplomat told REUTERS the expelled American diplomat was Zachary White, a second secretary at the U.S. embassy in Baghdad.

Washington's reaction to the Iraqi move was a mild protest. Asked whether the U.S. was considering economic retaliation or other sanctions against Baghdad, a White House spokesman said "the U.S.-Iraqi relationship is not being reassessed in that kind of context." He said the United States was "greatly concerned" about a number of Iraqi actions and noted that President George Bush had spoken out on some of them.

Against public expectation, neither the United States and the United Nations have shown a proper reaction against this blatant Iraqi violation at an organization which is believed to be the most important international body.

The issue becomes more important when we realize that the United Nations had never in the past been taken such an advantage of by former Iraqi regimes and that it is the first time a Baghdad government dares to use the world body as a launching pad for its terrorist activities. Therefore, it is only natural and appropriate to expect the United Nations and the secretary general as its highest official to take proper action vis-a-vis this inhuman Iraqi measure which is also in contravention of diplomatic norms and principles.

Now that the scope of Iraq's terrorist activities has gone as far as the United Nations, can the past assurance about security for important world leaders and personalities who regularly attend the forum, still exist?

U.S. officials had learned about the unlawful activities of the Iraqi U.N. mission a long time ago but refused to reveal it. This is while Washington always levels unfounded charges against revolutionary states with a lot of propaganda hue and cry before the world public opinion.

Washington's behavior shows that the White House is intent to continue its friendly ties with Baghdad despite some American media reports indicating the contrary in view of some recent developments.

Saddam Husayn's explicit confession to possessing binary chemical weapons and his threat to use them against Israel was enough evidence for the West and the U.S. to reconsider their relations with the Baghdad maniac.

Another interesting point in this regard is that Iraqi diplomats at the United Nations these days, unlike the past, rarely show up, something which shows how serious the issue is.

Nonetheless, the United Nations has remained silent vis-a-vis this open affront—a silence which will certainly be detrimental for the future of this great world body. This would also encourage future governments in Iraq to resort to similar acts because they would see no obstacles on their way.

Significance of International Jerusalem Day Noted

Velayati Interviewed

LD1904175190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] In an exclusive interview with our correspondent on the occasion of International Jerusalem Day, Foreign Minister Velayati described the conspiracies hatched by the East, the West, and the dictatorial regimes in the region to confront the recent uprising of the Palestinian people.

He referred to the fact that, in the beginning, collusion between East and West and treason by some regional governments resulted in the creation of Israel and the occupation of the holy Islamic land by the Zionists. He said: In the early 1950s, there was collusion between the various powers concerning the settlement of Zionists in the area. At that time, the regional governments put on a show of sympathy; but no practical steps were taken.

He added: Unfortunately, so far there has been no international organization which could seriously deal with the Palestinian issue and organize the support given by the world Muslims to the rescue of Jerusalem. What Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his soul, did was a beginning for a popular move, that is, a call to world Muslims to combat the Zionist occupation. As time goes by this call gains more global momentum. It should be said that such confrontation with the enemy has, in fact, been modeled on Iran. It is a model initiated by the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Concerning the immigration and settlement of Jews in occupied Palestine and the selection of Jerusalem as the capital of occupied Palestine, he said:

[Begin Velayati recording] As long as some regional Islamic governments continue to compromise with the Zionists—some of whom have even competed with each other in their attempt to compromise—unfortunately this unfavorable and degrading attitude adopted by the Israeli Government will continue. Israel will not stop at

that. The more some Arab governments, compromising with Israel, retreat, the more Israel expects. The solution lies in Muslim countries uniting and standing alongside and supporting the people of Palestine, who have now risen against the usurper Zionist government.

The only effective anti-Israeli movement, which has demonstrated its effectiveness in practice, is that same uprising of the people of Palestine. All Muslims should support this uprising. What happens on Jerusalem Day is in fact symbolic, for the Muslims show they consider Jerusalem and Palestine as Islamic lands, although there are several conspiracies in progress in the world to separate Islam from that holy (?task). [end recording]

'Spiritual Solidarity' Lauded

NC1904111290 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 12 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Palestine Islamic Movement: March Forward"]

[Text] The Palestinian Islamic movement has now entered its 29th month with the oppressed people of the usurped land more determined than ever to carry their righteous struggle against the Zionist occupiers.

The West Bank of the Jordan River and the Gaza Strip, two main and primary centers of the Islamic uprising of the grievied people of Palestine, are these days scenes of a new wave of strikes. As we are approaching the International al-Quds [Jerusalem] Day (the last Friday of the blessed month of Ramadan declared by the late Imam Khomeyni), we see more strikes, protest demonstrations and street clashes occurring in these regions compared with other occupied areas.

The Islamic movement of Palestine was shaped under a state of despotism and suppression of the chained people of this land by the usurper Zionists and while the Arab reaction remained silent and indifferent. And it gathered momentum with the passage of each and every day.

The Islamic movement of Palestine, which was quite an unprecedented phenomenon in the past 20 years, differed from what many of the diplomatic circles in the region and the world prognosticated. It was different from the prediction of those who since the al-Ta'if Conference in 1982 until the Amman Conference in 1987 and thereafter have always been trying to forget the main enemy of the Muslims, that is Israel, and instead raise the imaginary threat of the Islamic Revolution.

Today, despite the extensive political-propaganda efforts of global arrogance and the regional reaction, there is not the least decline in the deep-rooted hatred and animosity of world Muslims towards the criminal Israeli leaders and the Islamic world just cannot tolerate the filthy existence of Zionism.

The crushing of the Islamic and anti-Zionists demonstrations of the Muslim nations in the Islamic states in the early months of the Palestinian revolution once again

displayed the united front of Zionism and Arab reaction on the one hand and the unified rank of the Muslims in these countries, on the other.

If until the 1960s the Arabs and the Israelis each regarded the other as a threat to their survival and if in the 1970s this threat was replaced by a satisfying indifference for the two sides, in the 1980s each party in reality needs the other for its own preservation. Today, governments like those in Egypt, Jordan, Iraq, and Hijaz are heartened by Israel's existence in the Arab Middle East region and consider Zionism essential and effective for the perpetuity of their thrones.

The cause is so important for these regimes that when at the Amman Summit Egypt's return to the Arab League was approved, the Cairo regime sets certain conditions for joining the league to the surprise of the public opinion. Furthermore, at a time that the massacre of the Palestinians in a region that until 20 years ago was part of Jordan, is at its climax, King Husayn signs a pact of solidarity and cooperation with the Tel Aviv regime. And while the tyrannized people of Palestine are suffering under the most critical and catastrophic conditions at the hands of the Zionists, "Chairman 'Arafat" longs for negotiations with Israel and speaks of the formation of a reconciliation government in the occupied lands.

But the general assumption of one billion Muslims in Asia and Africa is basically different from that a handful of treacherous and dependent individuals who have been imposed on them.

The spiritual solidarity of the Muslim nations in the region with the Islamic Revolution of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, should sound the alarm for all those regimes who are moving against the general interests of their nations. Muslim nations are awake and very well know the difference between justice and falsehood, and no compromise, alliance or diplomatic efforts and propaganda would succeed in covering up the realities.

President Leads Prayers

LD2004121390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 20 Apr 90

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, in the Friday prayer sermons in Tehran this week, said the massive presence of Muslim and revolutionary residents of Tehran in the glorious and great march on the occasion of International Jerusalem Day is indicative of the fact they have a sense of duty at this sensitive juncture in the history of Islam.

Debating the issue of Palestine, he referred to the importance of the characteristics of Palestinian territory from the economic, political, military, and geographic points of view for the global arrogance. He then enumerated the repeated conspiracies by the United States, England, and

other world powers in the establishment of the illegitimate regime of Israel and went on to say that in 1947, the illegitimate Israeli regime was set up through a plot by England, supported by the United States and France and other powerful countries of the day. The purpose behind its establishment was to cater to specific colonial objectives of the global arrogance. Thus, it gave birth to a calamity in the history of Islam and humanity. At present among objectives they intend to achieve by virtue of establishing that regime, is their firm presence among the Islamic countries. That is because they know the world of Islam will eventually rise. As many as 1.02 billion Muslims throughout the world will eventually bar the colonialist presence of the West in the world of Islam. Therefore, the existence of the occupying Jerusalem regime, as a military base, carries special importance for the global arrogance. As a result, the policy of the arrogance calls for Israel to always be militarily several steps ahead of the Arab countries. That way their strategy calls for the existence of a military base in the region of Palestine which is the heart of the world of Islam, a military base of which the others would be frightened.

Referring to the conspiracy of massive immigration of Jews from the Soviet Union and Argentina to occupied Palestine, the president of the Republic said: The program of the regime occupying Jerusalem is to realize its objective from the Nile to the Euphrates. Materialization of that program depends on the reaction of the Islamic countries. Unfortunately, so far in this age of the uprising of nations, the Islamic societies have confronted these plots in an ugly and humiliating manner.

The global arrogance is always bent on creating problems for and contradictions in the Islamic countries so they may forget the problem of Israel. The imposed war [between Iran and Iraq] was also one of those conspiracies. The problem of Kashmir too has been left unresolved for that very same reason.

Now, even if one supposes the East bloc is no longer within international calculations, that does not give cause for Westerners to be happy, because if it is the age of the uprising of nations, then a new situation will be in front of us. It is the duty of the world of Islam's mass media, preachers, and writers who should explain the realities to Muslims.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: It is the duty of the mass media of the world of Islam; it is the duty of the preachers, writers, artists, radio stations, television stations, poets, and Friday prayer imams in the world of Islam to tell the realities to the people. That way the people will understand the true interests of Islam and the region.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that today in our region, there is no danger as important as that of Israel; there is no trouble bigger than that of Israel. For us there is no duty as important as that of a crusade against Israel.

Guards Allegedly Fire on Anti-Regime Protest

LD1904163990 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian
Toilers in Persian 1530 GMT 18 Apr 90

[Text] News agencies reported that on (?Thursday), Saturday, and Sunday [12, 14 and 15 April] hundreds of people gathered in Mellat Park north of Tehran and shouted political slogans. Reports indicate that armed guards resorted to shooting to disperse the demonstrators and seriously injured many of them. On Sunday government papers also admitted arresting 65 demonstrators in Mellat Park.

Velayati Confers With Afghan Jihad Leaders

LD1904194590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Mawlawi Nasrullah Mansur, Qazi Amin Waqqad, and Mulawi Rafiullah al-Mu'azin, leaders of independent jihad-seeking Afghan groups, met and conferred with Foreign Minister Velayati today.

During the meeting, while praising Iran for its stand regarding the Afghan issue, the leaders of the independent jihad-seeking groups said: The important point is the formation of future Islamic government in Afghanistan, and for the people of that country to determine their own fate.

While welcoming the moves by Shiite Afghan groups toward unity and the formation of the Unity Party, they said: All the jihad-seeking parties in Afghanistan should form a single, united front which could represent all the people of Afghanistan.

They also stressed the importance of forming a congress comprising all the jihad-seeking Afghan parties in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Referring to the friendly ties between Iran and Afghan crusaders, Foreign Minister Velayati stressed the importance of greater understanding between the Muslim Afghan groups for attaining their common goals, and the continuation of Iran's support for the Muslim people of Afghanistan.

March Assembly of Afghan Shiites Praised

NC1904155990 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 10 Apr 90 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Unity of the Mujahidin Forces—A Pressing Need for the Afghanistan Movement"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Islamic revolution of Afghanistan continues to surmount all vicissitudes, becoming more tempered by experience with each new day, and is forging toward its real objective: The complete liberation of the country

from the filth of the sellout and servile elements and the establishment of a comprehensive Islamic government in Kabul.

The stances, statements, and actions of the Afghan mujahidin leaders at the present juncture on various issues have a special significance and may well exert a direct effect on the destiny of Afghanistan. Thus, if these stances and actions, whether political or military, are made more calculated and centralized, this will prove to be more effective and beneficial. [passage omitted]

The convocation of the first assembly of Afghan Shiites in Tehran in early March was a harbinger of glad tidings for the unification of all Shiite mujahidin groups among the revolutionary forces. These groups have an important share in the destiny of the Islamic movement in Afghanistan.

The resolution passed at the end of this assembly was full of hope-inspiring promises, which gladdened the hearts of all those who have an affinity for the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

It may be worthwhile to mention here that the convocation of the assembly of Afghan Shiites and the establishment of the Islamic Unification Party of Afghanistan is in no way a step toward dividing the path of the Shiites from their Sunni brethren.

On the contrary, this step is the first intensive step on the path toward the complete solidarity of the mujahidin forces in Afghanistan, both Shiites and Sunnis. Therefore, it should be considered an auspicious augury and should receive support. We do not expect the propaganda loudspeakers of the East and the West to laud this pious action.

It is to be expected instead that that they will make every effort to pollute the minds of the non-Shiite mujahidin forces and use all means to sow dissent and discord. Only the vigilance of all Sunni and Shiite forces will neutralize the efforts to create a rift and pave the way for all godly measures, which will culminate in the complete cohesion of the Afghan mujahidin and subsequently result in the final victory of the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan.

Velayati Briefed By UNIIMOG Commander

LD1904193990 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—Commander of the United Nations Iran Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) Major General Slavko Jovic Wednesday [18 April] briefed Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the latest developments concerning the UNIIMOG mission at the borders.

Measures taken by the UNIIMOG and the United Nations to curb serious cases of ceasefire violations by the Iraqi forces were also discussed in the meeting.

UNIMOG comprises some 350 officers from 26 countries whose task is to monitor compliance with the ceasefire by the two countries. It was established by the Security Council in August 1988 and its mandate was extended for another six months in March.

Editorials Comment on British Court Actions

Rushdie Ruling Termed 'Unholy'

NC1904120690 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 14 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Britain: What Democracy?"]

[Text] Britain's High Court has decided that Salman Rushdie, author of the anti-Islamic Book, the Satanic Verses, cannot be tried under the British blasphemy laws and that the laws should not be extended to cover religions other than Christianity.

The British "Muslim Action Front" were seeking to force Rushdie and publishers of his sacrilegious novel to stand trial for blasphemy and seditious libel.

But the three judges, who made the decision after six weeks of consultation, said Monday [9 April] that even if they had the opportunity to extend the laws to cover Islam, they would not be pleased to do so, because then all religions would begin asking for the laws to apply to them as well.

The U.K.'s blasphemy laws have been used as recently as 1979, in cases of blasphemy against the Christian religion, but they were devised in 1675, before immigration was widespread.

As announced by the Muslim Action Front earlier at the end of February this year when the trial started, if the legal case in the High Court failed, they would take the case through the legal system up to the House of Lords and then if necessary, to the Europe Court.

But as long as the systems there are so biased against Islam there will be no chance of success in any European court. Therefore, any attempt to deal with Rushdie through the legal system of non-Muslims will be doomed.

The Muslim Action Front in a statement expressed regret over the ruling and emphasized that it would "sadden millions of hearts". Also the chairman of the Bradford Council of Mosques condemned the decision, terming it a green light to the racists in insulting and desecrating the Muslims' sanctities. The British High Court's indifference towards the applications by millions of Muslims and its open support, instead, for such hired writers as Salman Rushdie, very well exposes the nature of the democracy and freedom claimed by the London authorities.

The British claim that their country is a cradle of democracy but their democracy is a big hoax. Muslim

nations' perception of such terms as culture, freedom, honor and humanity is completely different from the British attitudes.

The London government would sanction freedom only for those who, backed by the British old colonial fox, would speak and act against the pure sentiments of over one billion Muslims. That is why Rushdie's satanic book which contains nothing but insults and libels against Islamic sanctities is published in the context of "freedom of expression" and receives open support by the London court. But when Muslims reciprocate by raising their voice of protest against its treacherous and apostate author in the context of the same right, the British authorities are infuriated.

The British government should realize that in its anti-Islamic policies, it is not opposed by British or Iranian Muslims alone, but that the whole Islamic world is deeply abhorrent of this unholy move committed by British rulers against Islam.

London tried to be the initiator of an anti-Islamic move in the entire world but not only it failed in other parts of the globe, but even inside Britain, they did not succeed in carrying out their ominous plot.

Salman Rushdie, too, is no more than a moving corpse. His fate is but certain death—a fact that the British rulers have to accept sooner or later.

Student Victim of 'Malice'

NC1904185090 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 14 Apr 90 p 10

[Editorial: "The Height of the British Government's Malice Toward Iran"]

[Excerpts] At the same time that it rejected a request from British Muslims that Salman Rushdie be tried for writing the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses," the British High Court announced Iranian student Mehrdad Kowkabi, who had been pursuing a course of higher studies at Manchester University until he was arrested some months ago by British police, has been officially charged with complicity and involvement in setting fire to some bookshops in several British cities. He will be tried this fall.

At its session on 9 April, the British High Court and Scotland Yard presented some spurious documents. These documents, the results of four months of concerted efforts, did not have any reference to Mehrdad Kowkabi's involvement in the incidents and were presented merely to pave the way for indicting him on the alleged charges.

More than anything else, this charade indicates that the ruling was rigged and points to a calculated program for the trial and even the conviction of Mehrdad Kowkabi, who has become the victim of the malice and revenge of the fascist British Government solely for his Islamic views. [passage omitted]

To clarify the issue, the following points are worth noting:

1. The detention of an individual for more than four months before documentary evidence of his guilt is presented to a court contravenes all international judicial principles. Scotland Yard presented their alleged documents to the court four months after Mehrdad Kowkabi's arrest. It is clear that the court has no grounds for depriving Mehrdad Kowkabi of his human rights except for the fact this was directly ordered by the British Government.

2. If the court and Scotland Yard had documents, proof, or evidence supporting their charges against Mehrdad Kowkabi and arrested him on this basis, why is it then that the charges were not officially leveled against him four months ago and have only become official after this prolonged period? [passage omitted]

3. The British High Court has no justification for rejecting the complaints of that country's Muslims against Salman Rushdie. If an ordinary individual brings a complaint against another person for defamation, such a complaint would definitely be investigated. How is it that some million Muslims resident in Great Britain have all other social rights but their complaint of their sanctities being profaned is not worth considering?

This indifference to the sanctities of the Muslims indicates the decisions by the British High Court are rigged and not the product of any independent will of the court. The latter is merely a mouthpiece for implementing a decision previously made by the British Government.

In light of the above, the Muslims now see themselves poised against the British more clearly than ever before. The British Government is not the only malicious enemy of Islam, but it is at the height of its animosity toward Islam. The British authorities are taking their revenge against the Islamic Republic of Iran because they know this country is the base of the pure Islam of Mohammad (peace be upon him and his scion) and the fountainhead of the revolutionary uprisings in the Islamic world.

Therefore, the British echelons would do well to understand that if they do not respect the wishes of the Muslims, there will be no flexibility in the field of the improvement of relations on the part of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Editorial Warns Against Violence in Kashmir

NC1904122590 *Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English*
12 Apr 90 pp 2,4

[Editorial: "Violence Is Detrimental to the Kashmiri Cause"]

[Text] Yesterday [11 April] the Indian police announced that "Kashmiri separatists" had killed three people they had taken hostage to exchange with their imprisoned colleagues.

The Kashmiri events and the popular struggle for independence from India are taking on new dimensions each day.

In fact the issue of Kashmir has once again turned into an international problem making India and Pakistan face one another in a bitter feud capable of causing grave untoward confrontations between the two countries. Just recently the Indian Premier V.P. Singh in a very strongly-worded statement threatened Pakistan with serious consequences for the latter's Kashmiri policy.

But as far as the Kashmiri people and their own political aspirations are concerned what is very sensitive and thought-provoking is the trend of the Kashmiri uprising. It has become a trend of violence.

The Kashmiri cause has become tainted with violence and violent moves are on the rise. This is very regrettable indeed.

And this is surely detrimental to the Kashmiri people's movement. Nowhere has violence ever helped to put one's best foot forward. Neither will it do in Kashmir.

Leaders of the Kashmiri movement should be aware that to take hostage the vice chancellor of the Kashmir University and killing him and his secretary will not help to buy sympathy for it at all. Such acts of violence only leave very dire consequences on the public opinion about the movement.

However, we would also expect that the New Delhi government will think twice before using force against Kashmiri militants. Force has so far proved to be ineffective as a solution to any problem, especially where common people are involved.

We also expect that sincere efforts will be made to find a solution to the Kashmiri problem. The entire world is worried that yesterday was the sixth day of a round-the-clock curfew in Kashmir and the people cannot go out even to purchase their bare necessary provisions.

News coverage of these acts too, especially when deliberate efforts are made to aggrandize its violent aspect, will leave a very negative impact on the world's public opinion. Violence from whichever side, more often than not, backfires and adversely affects the base of support for the related cause or movement. As for the Kashmiri popular movement, it will reduce a vast and just movement to the dimension of a guerrilla or even lower, to a terrorist movement.

In principle any popular movement that turns to take up arms without first trying all possible channels of dialogue and law will only mar its own stature and become sectarian in terms of revolutionary ethics.

This might even cost a movement some of its own supporters from among its sympathizers.

It is of course only natural that every movement and force will entail some violence especially in clashes

between the armed government forces and unarmed people. But there is a gulf of difference between inevitable clashes and acts that can be categorized only as terroristic.

Besides, if the Kashmiri people and leaders insist on taking violent steps to attain their political goals, the Indian government will have all the alibis to confront them with arms and violence in kind. And this of course goes without saying that a government can by far outgun any political group.

It may be even said that leaders in New Delhi might already be probably looking for such an excuse to unleash military forces on Kashmir for an extensive clampdown in the name of preservation of peace and order. This must be avoided and the Kashmiri people and leaders should not allow violence to taint their struggle.

News on Pakistani-Indian Hostilities 'Alarming'

NC1904124290 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
14 Apr 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Urgent Need To Avert Pakistan-Indian Hostilities"]

[Text] News reports coming from the Indo-Pakistan subcontinent are alarming, disgusting and disappointing. Though both India and Pakistan publicly maintained that the last thing they want or need is another war, the temperature has risen markedly this week and has heightened the risk of a war which can be devastating to both countries.

Observers here in Tehran however, believe that the chances of war are not real as there have been periods of worse tension between the two neighboring countries but in one way or the other disputes were resolved peacefully.

Alarm was raised when Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh warned last week that Pakistan could not wrest Muslim Kashmir without a war and India would make it pay a heavy price.

There are also reports of clashes between the troops of the two countries along with some casualties.

Both countries are our neighbors and naturally the Iranian nation would never like to see the manpower and other resources of these countries to go [to] waste.

India and Pakistan have fought three wars with heavy life and material losses. The development plans for the common people of both the countries were pushed back for decades. Even after 43 years of independence the fate of the common peoples in both countries, especially of those in India, could not be improved as both nations have been spending a considerable amount of their capital in defense.

The current crisis emerged with the heightening of the struggle by the militants on the Indian side in Kashmir. Several hundreds of Kashmiris have lost their lives and they have been living now under a round-the-clock curfew for more than one week. Common Kashmiris are poor and naturally in the present situation they have no other alternative but to starve.

Before the situation gets beyond control, the leaders of both countries particularly Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto and Prime Minister V.P. Singh should meet immediately so that the present dangerous situation can be averted.

Mr. V.P. and Ms. Benazir both are leading weak governments in their respective countries. Naturally peace is one of the first conditions for the success of democracy. We sincerely hope that democracy would be given priority attention by the leaders of Pakistan and India.

Direct Flights Between Iran, Kuwait To Resume

LD1904170490 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—Iran and Kuwait today agreed in principle to resume flights to each other's soil. The agreement was reached during a meeting between the Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Hoseyn Sadeqi and Kuwaiti Minister of Finance Jasim Muhammad al-Khuraifi here.

The two also discussed expansion of mutual aviation cooperation and emphasized the quick resumption of flights between the two countries.

Foreign Minister Meets Omani, Finnish Envoys

LD1904175290 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Tehran, April 19, IRNA—Omani Ambassador to Tehran 'Abd al-Alim Ibn-Mostahil met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and expressed his government's tendency to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Velayati pointed out Iran's good-neighborly policy and emphasized on the importance of the Persian Gulf region. He also put stress on the necessity of political, economic and international cooperation between Iran and Oman through exchanging of delegations.

Meanwhile, Finnish Ambassador to Tehran Tapani Brotherus met with Velayati today on the brink of the latter's visit to Helsinki. They talked on expansion of ties, and the setting up of a joint economic commission. Velayati expressed Iran's mutual readiness to expand ties with Finland.

Envoy To Convey President's Message to Sri Lanka

LD1904205790 Tehran IRNA in English 1903 GMT
19 Apr 90

[Text] Colombo, Apr. 19, IRNA—Hojjat ol-Eslam Masih Mohajeri, a senior presidential advisor, is to arrive here tomorrow [20 April] as a special envoy of Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani carrying a message for President R. Premadasa. The message is said to contain President Rafsanjani's appreciation of his Sri Lankan counterpart for his recent decision to close down the Israeli interest section in Colombo. The envoy is also to extend an invitation to the Sri Lankan president to pay a state visit to Tehran. Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohajeri, accompanied by a senior Foreign Ministry official, is scheduled to meet the Sri Lankan prime minister, parliamentary speaker, foreign minister and several ministers during his stay here.

Meanwhile, the Iranian Embassy here organized a meeting Thursday at the residence of the Iranian charge d'affaires on the eve of the International Qods [Jerusalem] Day, April 20. The meeting, attended by Muslim parliamentarians and politicians, was addressed by several prominent speakers.

Pakistan

Lahore Commander: India Deploying More Forces

BK1904144690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1400 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Corps Commander Lieutenant General Alam Jan Mahsud has again said that the Pakistani Armed Forces are fully capable of defending the motherland at any difficult situation and they are fully aware of their sacred duty of defending the country. This was stated by him while giving details to media men at the corps headquarters operations [word indistinct] in Lahore today. He said that Indian authorities have deployed additional forces at the borders. But there is nothing to worry about. He added the Pakistani Armed Forces are filled with the spirit of faith in God, and they will deal with any aggression with full force and professional expertise.

Comments on Airspace Violations

BK1904153890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Excerpts] In Lahore, Corps Commander Lieutenant General Alam Jan Mahsud has again said that the Pakistani Armed Forces are fully capable of defending the motherland in any difficult situation. He stated this while speaking to domestic and foreign journalists in the corps headquarters operation zone today. [passage omitted]

In reply to a question, he said the Indian warplanes committed several airspace violations in the Pakistani territory in March this year. On the Indian troop movements, he said these movements are extraordinary.

Army Chief Visits Border Areas, Addresses Troops

BK1904165290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Army Chief of Staff General Mirza Aslam Beg has said the Pakistani Army is fully prepared to deal with the dangers facing the country. Addressing the soldiers in Bahawalpur after visiting the border areas, Gen Beg said the Pakistani Army has the high standard of professional efficiency and has risen to the nation's expectations at all times of test and trial.

Addressing the troops at Sulaimanke, the Army chief of staff appreciated the performance of the unit during past wars. He commended the spirit and diligence of officers and men who were working while fasting in the hot desert to pave the way for military advancement. [sentence as heard] The ability to undergo such hardship demonstrates their capability to overcome any difficulty, he said. Gen. Beg said that apart from equipping the Army with the latest weapons, steps have also been taken for the welfare of (needy) and retired Army men and their family members. He specifically referred to the pension scheme started for the widows of martyrs.

Gen. Beg also attended the briefing on matters of training of armed forces and their state of operational preparedness.

Reinforced Border Fence Dubbed 'New Berlin Wall'

BK2004101890 Hong Kong AFP in English 1005 GMT
20 Apr 90

[By Sami Zubier]

[Text] Fattiwali, Pakistan, April 20 (AFP)—India has recently reinforced a high, electrified fence along the border with Pakistan which Army officers here have dubbed "the new Berlin wall". Behind the double fence, a series of powerful flood lights illuminate the area and search lights mounted on poles every hundred meters (yards) probe the darkness for potential infiltrators.

For villagers here the construction of the fence has created its own festive air, for Indians it is a simple "anti-infiltration" measure and for Pakistan it is a waste of millions of dollars.

"From Hungary to Azerbaijan, fences are coming down while we are having a new Berlin wall in this region," Lieutenant General Alam Jan Mahsud, corps commander of Lahore, told a group of journalists who were taken to the border along India's Punjab State late Thursday.

The 10 to 12 foot high fence starts from the Ravi-Chenab corridor and stretches nearly 700 kilometers (430 miles), said his chief of staff, Brigadier Mumtaz Gul. The fence was erected in mid-1988. Some gaps were filled in later and reinforced recently with 30 to 40 foot high observatory towers.

Fattiwali, a small village with 200 inhabitants, is 90 kilometers (55 miles) northwest of Lahore in Kasur District, which was the scene of a major battle between India and Pakistan in 1965.

From Lahore to Kasur and onward into the no man's land skirting the uneasy frontier, life appeared normal and no troop movements were noticed. Farmers were busy in their fields getting ready for harvest. Sheep could be seen being herded back to Kasur as potato bags were staked alongside the road in preparation for the Lahore market.

The population here was largely unaware that a war of words had already begun between the two hostile neighbors, which have fought three wars in 42 years. Once again, tensions are rising over divided Kashmir, with India accusing Pakistan of backing Muslim separatists in the Indian part of the state, to the north of here. Islamabad has denied the accusation but has made clear its sympathies for the Kashmiri separatists.

The mistrust was visible among the troops. As the group of journalists reached no man's land, an Indian sentry manning an observatory tower, about 200 meters (yards) from the zero line, got down into his machine gun pit.

"You can't go into their field," said Colonel Mohammed Ali. "If you are only ten meters in their territory, you will be shot dead."

On the Indian side of the line, the fields were empty as farmers observed the 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. curfew on that side of the border.

Col. Ali explained that Sikh farmers in the border village on the Indian side were not allowed to grow crops higher than three feet in order to maintain clear fields of fire. He said the farmers "come under proper military escort on prior permission and leave under troop protection after doing their field work."

"Nobody comes these days," he said, pointing at over-ripe wheat languishing unharvested in some fields. "The Indians have made the atmosphere tense on their side," he said, adding that India's border security force men are "so trigger-happy that if one chap starts shooting, all others follow suit." He said the fence in Punjab was "like the great wall of China, visible from the moon."

"They think it may solve the Sikh problem," he said, referring to another ethnic problem rocking India, the separatist campaign of the Sikhs in the Punjab. But instead, he said, the Sikh problem "has worsened."

He was perplexed that the Indians had spent "millions of dollars" to build the fence on the mere suspicion that trained terrorists were being infiltrated into India from Pakistan. As he pointed out, the fence has made "crossing ... virtually impossible from this side."

Spokesman Comments on Indian Kashmir Statements

Claims 'Disinformation Campaign'

BK1904145190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1400 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad said today that the organized disinformation campaign launched by India is very regrettable. It is aimed at maligning Pakistan and impairing the relations between Pakistan and the Arab world. The spokesman said that Indian sources, including ministers, have repeatedly made statements saying that some leaders of Arab countries, including Yasir 'Arafat, and the Tunisian and Kuwaiti foreign ministers, have supported the Indian policy on Kashmir. The spokesman said that on all such occasions, Pakistan established contacts with Yasir 'Arafat and the concerned countries and it was revealed that the reports released by the Indian sources and the ministers' so-called statements were totally baseless.

The spokesman categorically said that Pakistan is fully satisfied with the reaction and response received from the Arab countries on the Kashmir issue. They share the sorrow of the Kashmiri Muslims and sympathize with them.

'Deep Regret' Over Tension

BK1904161590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Excerpt] Pakistan has expressed deep regret and sorrow over the fact that India is continuing the tension in relations between the two countries. A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that strong and provocative statements by Indian leaders have created worldwide concern about the possibility of a confrontation between the two neighboring South Asian states. The spokesman said the situation in the occupied Kashmir is grave where bold political initiatives are needed. However, using the situation as a reason for war contradicts the UN Charter and all norms of international conduct.

The spokesman said Pakistan has deliberately avoided the so-called war of words because this would only jeopardize peace. Despite repeated provocations Pakistan has not abandoned its policy to work for a durable and honorable peace with India.

The spokesman said Pakistan has expressed its readiness to hold talks at the foreign minister's level in New York where the foreign ministers of the two countries will be present for the forthcoming special UN General Assembly session. The suggestion for such talks had been received through the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi, and Pakistan accepted it in the hope that it would help in ending the current trend of confrontation and mistrust.

In reply to a question, the spokesman said that it has been reported that the UN secretary general has

expressed the desire to meet the foreign ministers of Pakistan and India, and we want him to play his role in promoting the process of establishing peace and resolving the Kashmir issue.

The Foreign Office spokesman said that President Bush has sent messages to leaders of the two countries asking them to work with patience and restraint on the Kashmir issue. He said that the U.S. stand on the issue is obvious and the U.S. spokesman has expressed regret over the acts of violence and loss of life in occupied Kashmir.

In reply to a question on joint efforts reportedly being made by the two superpowers to reduce tension, the spokesman said nothing was known about anything regarding this. However, it is quite possible and [words indistinct]. The spokesman referred to the Pakistani foreign secretary's recent visit to Moscow and said that he has returned from Moscow with the belief that the USSR does not want to see disputes in the region. Rather, it is in favor of seeking a peaceful solution of the situation.

When the spokesman was asked about the movement of troops, he said that India, apart from increasing its forces in occupied Kashmir and Punjab, has made a large concentration of its troops near Suratgarh in Rajasthan. He said that the government is assessing the situation daily and steps will be taken as and when needed. However, he categorically stated that the Pakistani Armed Forces are still deployed at positions where they usually stay at times of peace. The spokesman said that the military authorities of the countries occasionally establish contacts on the hotline and the two countries often establish contacts through diplomatic channels as well.

The spokesman added that Pakistan welcomes the statement issued by a number of highly respectable figures in India which pointed to the devastating nature of modern warfare and advised all to act with patience and restraint and prudence. The spokesman said that Pakistan on its part is ready to extend wholehearted cooperation in the effort aimed at ending the possibility of war and promoting the process of peaceful resolution of disputes according to the UN Charter and the Simla agreement. The spokesman urged the Indian Government to pay heed to suggestions of people having the spirit of goodwill who are worried about the people of India, and South Asia as well, and are interested in their welfare. [passage omitted]

Bhutto To Participate in 'Rare' Talks With AIG

BK2004130890 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES
in English 20 Apr 90 p 14

[By Sadiq Ali]

[Text] Islamabad—A rare meeting between the Afghan Cell headed by President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and the Afghan Interim Government [AIG] will take place in Islamabad in the next week.

The meeting will be participated by Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, top officials of the Foreign Office, concerned ministers and top military officials including the Chief of Army Staff.

The AIG will be represented by its President Sebghatullah Mojaddedi, Prime Minister Maulvi Yunis Khalis and all the members of the cabinet.

Prime Minister's Adviser on Foreign Affairs and National Security Iqbal Akhund told THE PAKISTAN TIMES here on Thursday [19 April] evening that the meeting would discuss all the current topics concerning the Afghan problem, and would take certain important final decisions to help a political solution of the decade-old issue take place.

These topics include setting up of a new government in Kabul, participated by all parties of Afghan politics, other than the two headed by Dr. Najib and Prof. Sebghatullah. If it really happens, this would be the third government of Afghanistan.

Such a government, whose idea is seemingly approved one way or the other by both the United States and the Soviet Union, will have the exclusive task of making preparations for an internationally supervised elections in Kabul.

The Pakistan-AIG meeting is also supposed to discuss and finalise ICO's [Islamic Conference Organization] participation in the supervision of elections simultaneously with the United Nations, and also in the UN plan for repatriation and rehabilitation of the Afghan refugees.

There are all indications that the international aid previously provided to the refugees and fighters for military purposes would now be diverted towards the return and rehabilitation of the refugees in their homeland.

Avoiding a direct answer in this respect, Mr. Akhund, who had accompanied Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto during her recent visit to Saudi Arabia, said that Saudi Arabia would continue its humanitarian aid for the Afghan refugees.

In reply to a question, he also said that Saudi Arabia would finance the return and rehabilitation of the Afghan refugees.

Foreign Secretary Tanvir Ahmad Khan, when asked at the Foreign Office earlier in the day about the possibilities of an all-party interim government for holding elections in Afghanistan, said that "there are fifty-fifty chances of such a happening".

PNCB Makes Hashih Haul in Northwest Pakistan

BK1904025490 Hong Kong AFP in English 2048 GMT
18 Apr 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 18 (AFP)—Officials of the Pakistan Narcotics Control Board (PNCB)

Wednesday [18 April] seized 3,700 kilograms (8,140 pounds) of hashish and arrested two people in connection with the seizure, PNCB officials said. Responding to a tip-off, the PNCB squad stopped an oil tanker at Kotal, some 40 kilometers (25 miles) south of here, and recovered the contraband drug, they said. The tanker's driver and a colleague were arrested. The drug was being smuggled from the northwestern semi-autonomous tribal areas, which are also known as a centre for the cultivation of opium poppies, they said.

Minister Alleges Punjab Police Promote Drug Trade

BK1804113090 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
18 Apr 90 p 8

[Staff report]

[Text] Islamabad, 17 April—Minister of State for Narcotics Mian Muzaffar Shah Tuesday said people in police uniforms were actively engaged in backing the drug traffickers in Punjab as a result of which the Federal Government was finding it hard to lay hand on the culprits.

The minister told a group of reporters that unfortunate tendency of promoting drug business by officials in Punjab was recently brought to the notice of the federal cabinet.

The Minister said he has irrefutable evidence in support of his contention.

Mr. Muzaffar Shah said he had informed the Punjab Chief Minister [CM] Mian Nawaz Sharif about this trend but he regretted that the CM paid no heed.

The number of drug addicts in Punjab he said was rising because of the little or no check on culprits.

'Drug Baron' Smuggling Narcotics From Afghanistan

BK1804115190 Lahore THE NATION in English
18 Apr 90 p 8

[From the "Bureau Correspondent"]

[Text] Peshawar—An international drug baron Khurshid Khan has been arrested, according to a spokesman of the Peshwar Customs authorities.

According to the spokesman Khurshid Khan was trapped at the Darya Khan Bridge near Dera Ismail Khan while he was attempting to smuggle 1,150 kg charas and 75 kg opium which were hidden in the concealed shelves on a oil tanker No. GLT/2448. The drugs were being smuggled from Afghanistan to Punjab and onwards to foreign countries.

2 Killed, 1 Injured in Peshawar Bomb Blast

BK1904082890 Islamabad Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] Two persons were killed and another injured in a bomb blast at [word indistinct] godown in Skeikhabad in Peshawar City this morning. The injured has been admitted to Lady Reading Hospital.

3 Killed, 40 Injured in Parachinar Bomb Attack

BK1804133290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1315 GMT
18 Apr 90

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, April 18 (AFP)—At least three people were killed and 40 injured, 10 of them seriously, when a powerful bomb exploded Wednesday [17 April] at a bus station in the northwestern Pakistani town of Parachinar, officials said here. The three men were blown to pieces as the bomb, placed in a hand-driven cart, went off at 1:30 p.m. (0830 GMT), they said, adding that more than a dozen vehicles were also damaged in the explosion. The explosion created a panic in the town, which borders Afghanistan, they said.

Two minor bomb blasts occurred in the capital, Islamabad, and the city of Rawalpindi on Monday [16 April] without causing casualties. Bomb blasts, which have claimed hundreds of lives during the past decade across the country, are usually not claimed by anyone.

Foreign Minister Meets With Iranian Envoy

LD1904133590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Apr 90

[Text] The ambassador of our country in Pakistan yesterday met and conferred with Sahabzadah Yaqub Khan, that country's foreign minister. They discussed bilateral economic ties, as well as preparations for the upcoming high council session of the Economic Cooperation Organization, ECO, in which ministers from Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan will participate.

According to the report, the two also reviewed the latest developments in Afghanistan; the need for unity among Afghan Mujahidin groups was stressed.